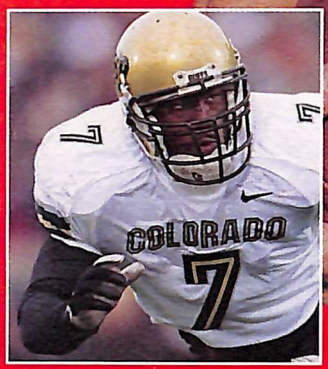
The Sporting News

College Football

In-depth team previews!

- Expert analysis of all Division I-A teams
- We rank the I-A teams, 1 to 115
- Predicted award winners and TSN's All-American team
- Plus: Schedules, depth charts, profiles and recruiting info



Colorado LB Jashon Sykes

Nebraska QB Eric Crouch

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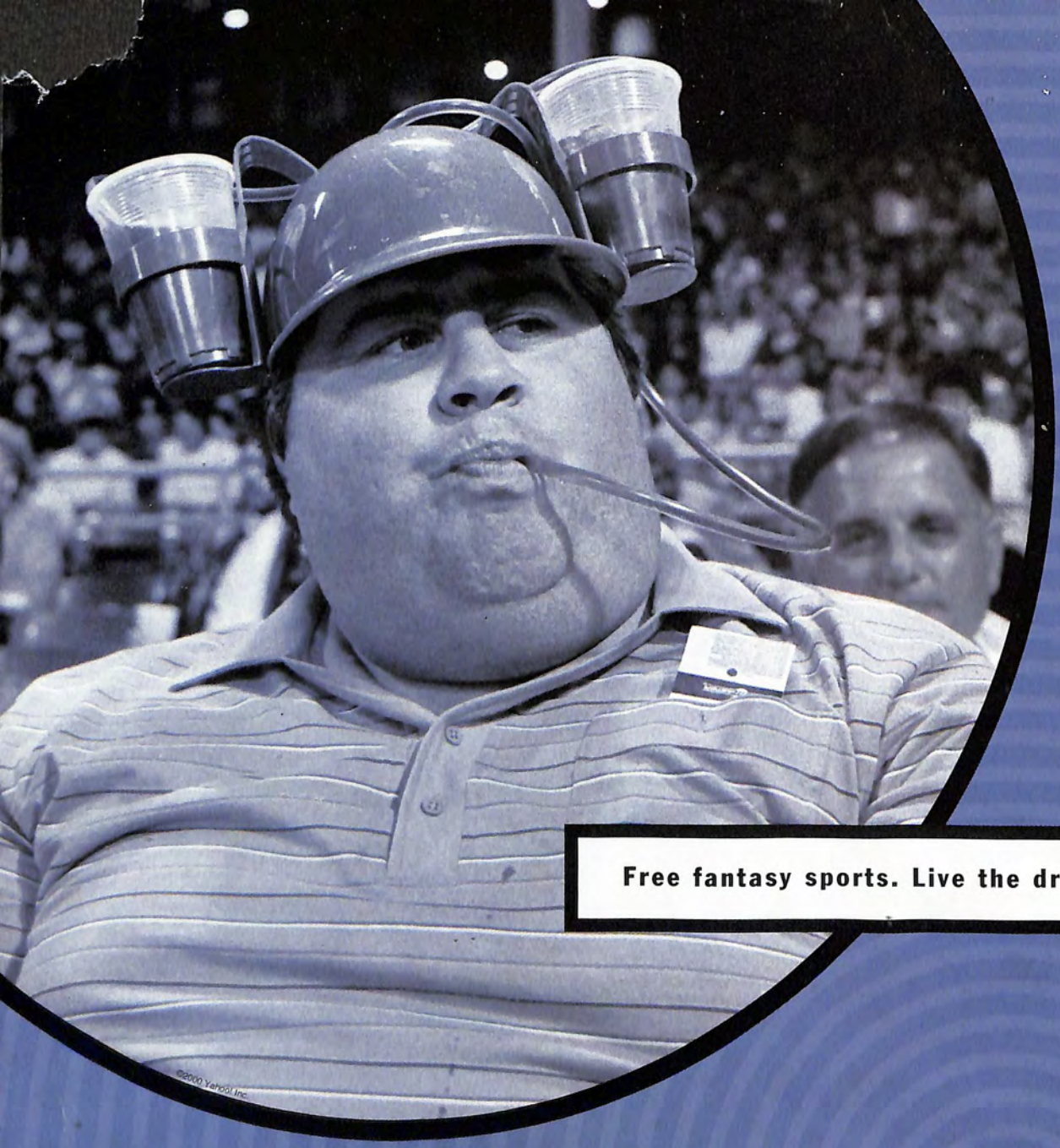

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LETTER FROM THE SENIOR MANAGING EDITOR

Funny how a word can mean something different to different people. "Evolution," for instance. To John T. Scopes, evolution was a scientific principle worth fighting for. To Gen. George S. Patton, it was the maneuvering of his troops into strategically advantageous formations. To my son and daughter, it's something Pokemon characters do.

I've been thinking about the word "evolution" while watching the 2000 edition of *TSN's College Football* yearbook take shape. This marks the 19th year we've published this magazine, and I've had a hand in 17 of them. It has been fascinating to watch them evolve.

In the beginning, the magazine was almost a 50-50 blend of feature stories and team previews, but it was light on rankings and predictions. As time went on, we developed more ways to rank teams and players and make predictions while cutting back slightly on features. Meanwhile, the space we devoted to each team grew a bit. Over the last few years we have gone much heavier on team previews, sacrificing feature stories along the way. By last year we were almost devoid of features, though we had great team coverage.

This year, we have taken another step in the evolution process. Our focus remains the team previews; we examine every Division I-A team, with most teams getting a full page that includes insightful analysis, a post-spring depth chart and other data. But we have tilted the scale back slightly toward features by profiling numerous players with our All-American rankings, unit rankings and award predictions. The message we have gotten from readers is that you want to know as much as possible about the nation's top teams and players. This is our attempt to flesh out the "player" part of that mandate.

This enhancement did not come without some sacrifice, however. We no longer preview Division I-AA teams. After agonizing over this decision we concluded, based largely on reader feedback, that the masses would be better served by greater coverage of Division I-A, even at the expense of the I-AA section. The result is a peerless preview of the 2000 Division I-A football season.

TSN's evolution as a media company also has been remarkable. We used to serve college football fans with this annual preview and our weekly magazine—print products, nothing more. We have expanded our coverage the last few years with our award-winning website. Check us out at www.sportingnews.com. You'll like our weekly matchups, team-by-team reports, expert analysis and the various special projects we do throughout the year.

Perhaps most exciting is a future we are only beginning to comprehend. A few months ago, TSN was purchased by Paul G. Allen, the visionary who helped launch Microsoft. He now is developing a cable system that will help bring the vast resources of the Internet—and much more—to the TV monitor in your living room. TSN will be at the forefront of this new technology. So, stay tuned. Literally.

When I worked on the 1984 *College Football* yearbook—the first yearbook that came out after my arrival at TSN earlier that year—I edited stories with paper and pencil. We didn't even have computers until a couple years later. Now, at the dawn of a new millennium, we're leading the charge into the broadband era.

Talk about evolution.

You can write Mike Nahrstedt at mnahrstedt@sportingnews.com or at 10176 Corporate Square Dr., Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63132.

Mike Nahrstedt

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2000 ON-SALE DATES:

Fantasy Baseball	January 11	College Football	June 20	Pro Basketball	September 12
Racing Preview	January 18	Pro Football	July 4	College Basketball	October 3
Baseball	February 15	Fantasy Football	July 11		
NFL Draft	March 21	Hockey	August 29		

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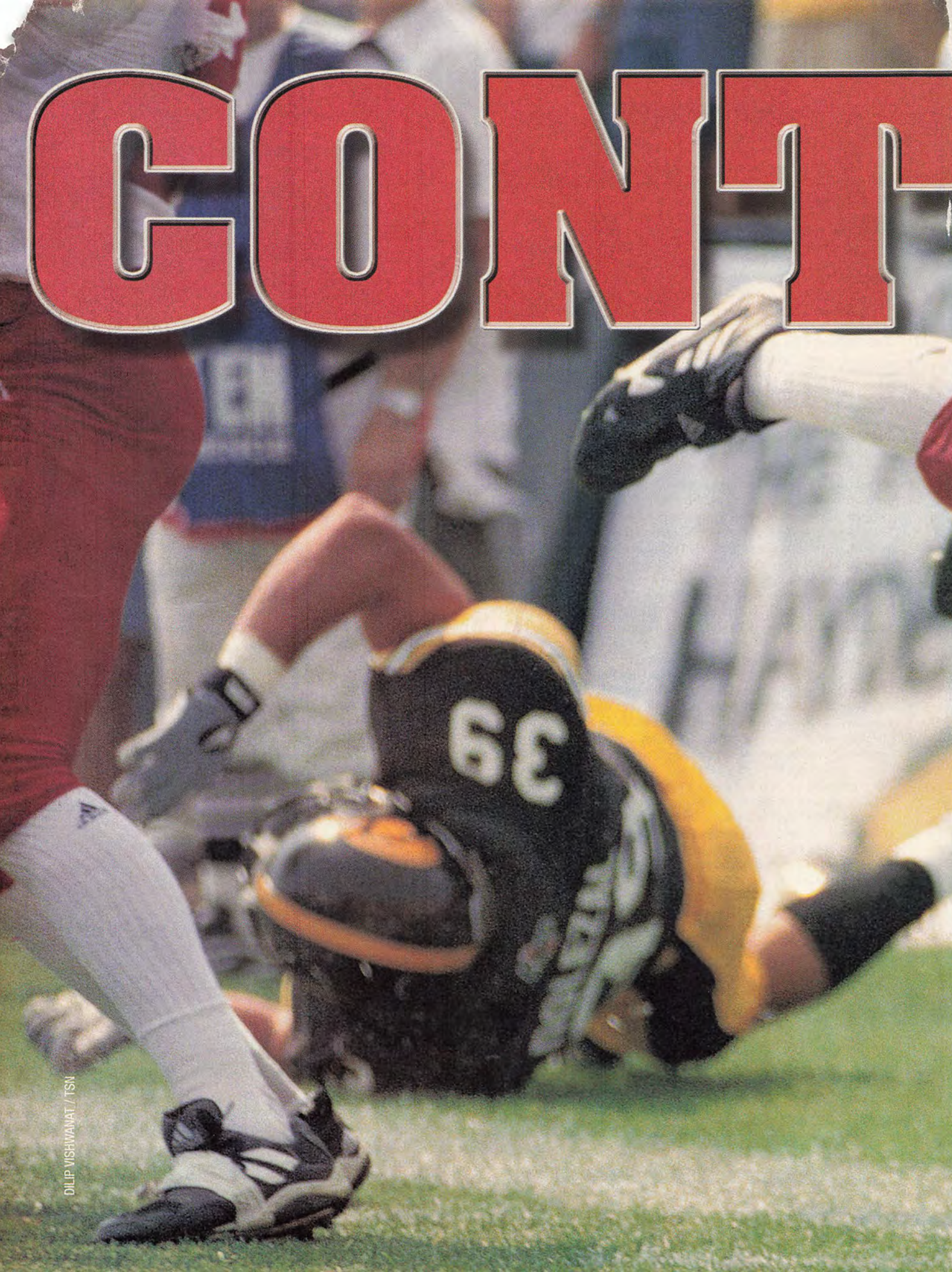

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

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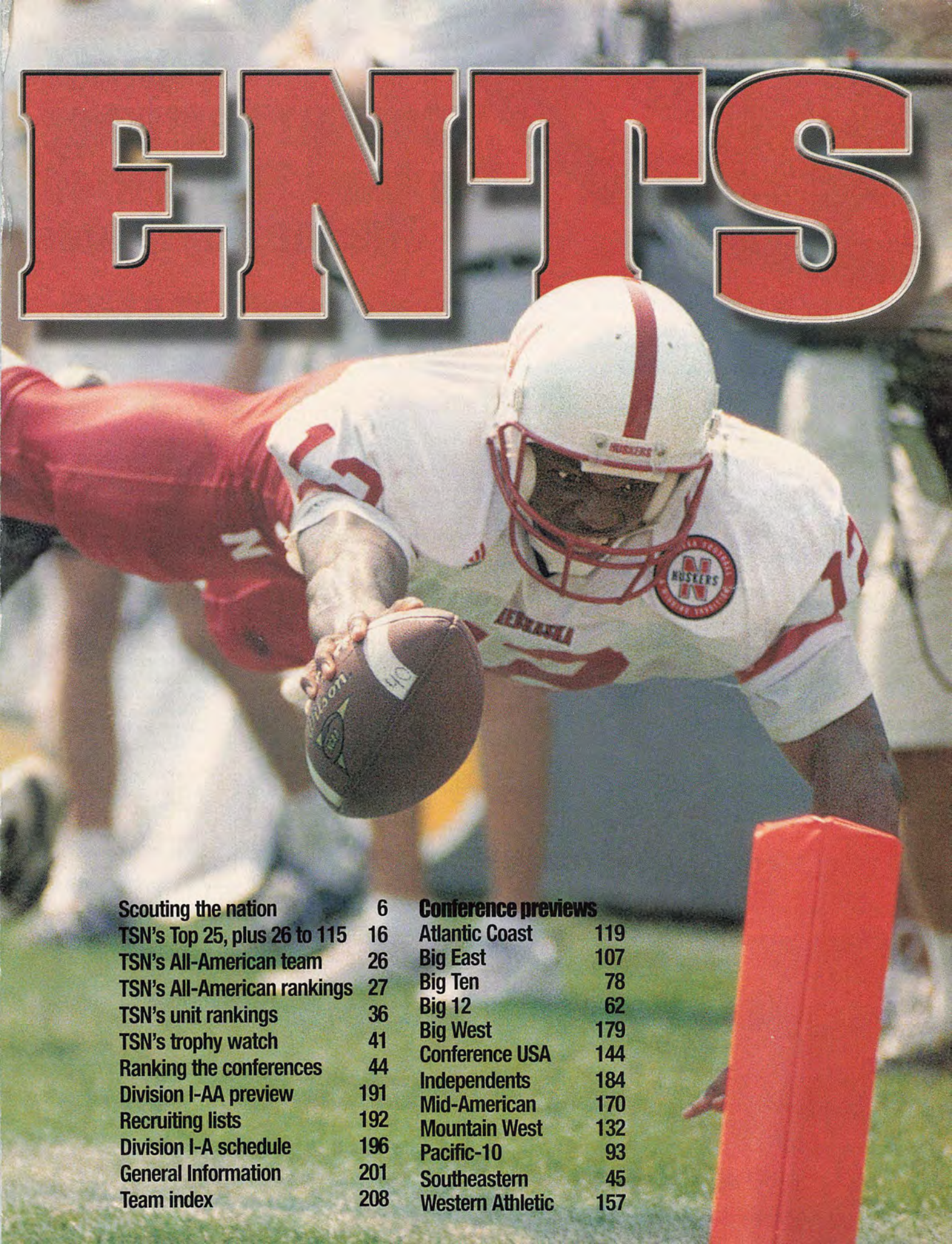

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The Game That Started The Fantasy Craze!

TSN's Fantasy Football Challenge is the game that started the fantasy craze and offers the best cash prize structure in the industry. All you have to do is select which 16 gridiron warriors you want to go to battle with and you can take home **$25,000 CASH**! So tighten up your chin strap and get in the biggest roto game in the industry at **www.fantasydeal.com**!

ROSTERS

- Football rosters consist of 24 Players, 16 Active Players, which must correspond with specified positions, and 8 Bench Players, which may be comprised of any position.
- The total salary of the 16 Active Players must add up to less than or equal to 35,000,000. The salary cap and position distribution rules do not apply for Bench Players until they are activated to the Active Roster.
- The Active Roster of 16 players consists of:

3-Quarterbacks	4-Running Backs
6-Wide Receivers	1-Tight End
2-Kickers	8-Bench Players

REPORTS

Bi-Weekly reports will be mailed every two weeks throughout the season, beginning week #2 (Sept. 13, 2000), and are included with the entry fees. Weekly reports are available for $14.95, just mark the circle on your order form or call ***1-800-789-8980*** and speak to a Live Fantasy Consultant.

LEAGUE AND DIVISION FORMATIONS

- Leagues of 25 and Divisions of 300 are formed as registrations are received on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Multiple entries received in the same envelope for different individuals will be placed in the same league / division unless specified otherwise.

FREE AGENTS

The Sporting News will list five (5) Free Agents each week, which may be picked up for $1.00 to either your Active Roster or your Bench. Each team will be limited to six (6) Free Agent Purchases throughout the season.

COST TO PLAY

Early Registration Prices and Deadlines:

- $39.95 - Postmarked by July 24, 2000
- $49.95 - Postmarked by August 21, 2000
- $59.95 - Postmarked by September 2, 2000
- Play this game and The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge for one low price

Entries postmarked after September 2, 2000 will not be accepted. **Receive a $10 discount for playing "Internet Only"**. Entries must be received by September 6, 2000 to be eligible.

TRANSACTION COSTS

There are three (3) ways for customers to trade players in the TSN Fantasy Football Challenge - Our Interactive Commissioner Phone System, the Internet, or through a Live Fantasy Sports Consultant. The following trades are available in the TSN Fantasy Football Challenge:

- Bench Switch ($2.50)
- New Player Purchase for your Active Roster ($7.50)
- New Player Purchase for your Bench ($5.00)
- Acquire a Free Agent ($1.00)

All trades prior to September 3, 2000 at 11:00 am CT are FREE, regardless of the type of transaction. Customers will be limited to twelve (12) total New Player Purchases during the season. These will include New-Active, New-Bench, and Free Agents. Trades may be made from Tuesday at 8:00 am CT through Sunday at 11:00 am CT.

MANAGER'S KIT

Contains the complete official roster, weekly tracking sheets, 2000 NFL Schedule, Interactive Commissioner Instructions, the Official Rules and Game-Within-A-Game Questions.

GAME WITHIN A GAME
TRIVIA CONTEST

The Sporting News gives you another way to win Cash! Play "Game-Within-A-Game"and the player with the correct trivia answer each week wins $100 Cash. Put your football mind to the test and PLAY TODAY!

(see official rules for details)

SCORING

Rotisserie scoring system is based upon these scoring categories:

- **Total Rushing Yards**
- **Total Rushing Average**
- **Total Receiving Yards**
- **Total Receiving Average**
- **Total Passing Yards**
- **Average per Pass Attempt**
- **Kicker Scoring**
  Field Goals (3) & Extra points (1)
- **Total Scoring**
  Rush TD's (6),
  Receiving TD's (3),
  Pass TD's (3), Other TD's (6)
  2 point conversion rush (2)
  2 point conversion rec. (2)

**All weeks are counted.*

PLAY AND WIN HUGE CASH!

Place	National	Division	League
1st	$25,000	$1,000	$500
2nd	$5,000	$500	$250
3rd	$3,000	$300	$100
4th	$2,000	$200	$75
5th	$1,000	$100	$50
6th-10th	$500	$250 WEEKLY HIGH SCORE	
11th-25th	$250		
26th-50th	$100		

JEEP® SWEEPSTAKES OFFER

Just for Registering to play The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge, you will be entered into a Sweepstakes drawing for a 2000 Jeep® Wrangler.

Winner will be announced on September 7, 2000

Visit Us At... www.fantasydeal.com

Select 16 NFL Players for your Active Roster using a salary cap less than or equal to 35,000,000. Then select any 8 players for your Bench from any position.

Quarterbacks (Select 3) ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
3188	Kurt Warner	STL	4,865
3120	Steve Beuerlein	CAR	4,844
3107	Peyton Manning	IND	4,753
3102	Brett Favre	GB	4,753
3113	Brad Johnson	WAS	3,778
3110	Drew Bledsoe	NE	3,688
3122	Rich Gannon	OAK	3,688
3138	Jeff George	WAS	3,506
3121	Elvis Grbac	KC	3,419
3144	Jon Kitna	SEA	3,403
3114	Mark Brunnell	JAC	3,344
3109	Steve McNair	TEN	3,107
3104	Chris Chandler	ATL	3,013
3129	Tim Couch	CLE	2,949
3115	Troy Aikman	DAL	2,939
3105	Vinny Testaverde	NYJ	2,894
3112	Doug Flutie	BUF	2,888
3101	Steve Young	SF	2,676
3108	Jake Plummer	ARZ	2,458
3118	Charlie Batch	DET	2,444
3172	Brian Griese	DEN	2,348
3116	Kordell Stewart	PIT	2,084
3127	Tony Banks	BAL	1,917
3199	Chad Pennington	NYJ	1,911
3125	Kerry Collins	NYG	1,600
3141	Rob Johnson	BUF	1,400
3153	Jeff Blake	NO	837

Running Backs (Select 4) ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
5103	Marshall Faulk	STL	4,205
5117	Edgerrin James	IND	4,091
5189	Stephen Davis	WAS	3,836
5107	Emmitt Smith	DAL	3,737
5109	Curtis Martin	NYJ	3,736
5114	Eddie George	TEN	3,724
5111	Ricky Watters	SEA	2,982
5105	Dorsey Levens	GB	2,870
5115	Duce Staley	PHI	2,821
5101	Terrell Davis	DEN	2,721
5104	Fred Taylor	JAC	2,721
5102	Jamal Anderson	ATL	2,721
5122	Corey Dillon	CIN	2,425
5108	Robert Smith	MIN	2,413
5120	Jerome Bettis	PIT	2,294
5251	Tyrone Wheatley	OAK	2,239
5267	Jamal Lewis	BAL	2,239
5123	Mike Alstott	TB	2,090
5268	Thomas Jones	ARZ	2,090
5125	Tim Biakabutuka	CAR	2,020
5269	Ron Dayne	NYG	2,020
5113	Ricky Williams	NO	2,004
5129	James Stewart	DET	1,992
5270	Shaun Alexander	SEA	1,911
5121	Antowain Smith	BUF	1,905
5159	Charlie Garner	SF	1,843
5106	Garrison Hearst	SF	1,802
5126	Napoleon Kaufman	OAK	1,802
5124	Warrick Dunn	TB	1,688
5112	Curtis Enis	CHI	1,500
5235	Errict Rhett	CLE	880

Tight Ends (Select 1) ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
9112	Tony Gonzalez	KC	1,635
9108	Wesley Walls	CAR	1,620
9105	Frank Wycheck	TEN	1,474
9113	Jay Riemersma	BUF	1,402
9101	Shannon Sharpe	BAL	1,400
9107	O. J. Santiago	ATL	1,336
9106	Rickey Dudley	OAK	1,290
9104	Cameron Cleeland	NO	1,242
9103	Andrew Glover	NO	1,227
9114	Stephen Alexander	WAS	1,196
9194	Bubba Franks	GB	1,196
9115	Kyle Brady	JAC	1,163
9111	Tyrone Davis	GB	1,022
9110	Freddie Jones	SD	974

Wide Receivers (Select 6) ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
7119	Marvin Harrison	IND	3,766
7102	Randy Moss	MIN	3,734
7236	Marcus Robinson	CHI	3,572
7110	Jimmy Smith	JAC	3,508
7115	Tim Brown	OAK	3,382
7107	Keyshawn Johnson	TB	3,053
7125	Mushin Muhammad	CAR	2,910
7108	Cris Carter	MIN	2,864
7145	Isaac Bruce	STL	2,831
7136	Michael Westbrook	WAS	2,754
7139	Terry Glenn	NE	2,676
7156	Germaine Crowell	DET	2,676
7168	Amani Toomer	NYG	2,596
7103	Eric Moulds	BUF	2,470
7275	Qadry Ismail	BAL	2,438
7167	Albert Connell	WAS	2,422
7177	Patrick Jeffers	CAR	2,392
7101	Antonio Freeman	GB	2,348
7127	Raghib Ismail	DAL	2,348
7113	Ed McCaffrey	DEN	2,313
7133	Johnnie Morton	DET	2,250
7123	Darnay Scott	CIN	2,250
7116	Tony Martin	MIA	2,250
7109	Rod Smith	DEN	2,233
7181	Bill Schroeder	GB	2,187
7104	Terrell Owens	SF	2,167
7106	Joey Galloway	DAL	2,157
7122	Keenan McCardell	JAC	2,108
7158	Ike Hilliard	NYG	2,092
7105	Terrance Mathis	ATL	2,092
7111	Rob Moore	ARZ	2,020
7118	Jerry Rice	SF	1,982
7114	O. J. McDuffie	MIA	1,967
7112	Herman Moore	DET	1,967
7135	Derrick Alexander	KC	1,935
7120	Bobby Engram	CHI	1,888
7279	Peter Warrick	CIN	1,888
7264	Kevin Johnson	CLE	1,872
7280	Plaxico Burress	PIT	1,872
7140	Sean Dawkins	SEA	1,872
7166	Jeff Graham	SD	1,840
7281	Travis Taylor	BAL	1,840
7124	Carl Pickens	CIN	1,809
7282	Sylvester Morris	KC	1,809
7147	Yancey Thigpen	TEN	1,807
7126	Wayne Chrebet	NYJ	1,389
7257	Tory Holt	STL	1,300
7172	Derrick Mayes	SEA	1,220
7131	Curtis Conway	SD	1,100
7151	Jake Reed	NO	950
7197	Corey Bradford	GB	840
7205	Tim Dwight	ATL	820

Kickers (Select 2) ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
1113	Mike Vanderjagt	IND	2,160
1116	Olindo Mare	MIA	2,139
1112	Mike Hollis	JAC	2,078
1117	Todd Peterson	SEA	1,956
1126	Jeff Wilkins	STL	1,940
1121	Martin Gramatica	TB	1,940
1106	Jason Elam	DEN	1,910
1125	Matt Stover	BAL	1,833
1136	Brett Conway	WAS	1,833
1118	John Carney	SD	1,757
1104	Ryan Longwell	GB	1,742
1139	S. Janikowski	OAK	1,742
1109	John Hall	NYJ	1,650
1103	Al Del Greco	TEN	1,650
1110	Pete Stoyanovich	KC	1,650
1111	Jason Hanson	DET	1,650
1122	John Kasay	CAR	1,650
1102	Steve Christie	BUF	1,650
1107	Adam Vinatieri	NE	1,402
1124	Jeff Jaeger	CHI	1,260
1108	Morten Andersen	ATL	1,237
1128	Doug Pelfrey	CIN	1,092

Active Roster

POS.	ID#	SALARY
QB		
QB		
QB		
RB		
RB		
RB		
RB		
TE		
WR		
WR		
WR		
WR		
WR		
WR		
K		
K		

Bench Roster

ID#

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II. TEAM OWNER INFORMATION

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FIRST NAME LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

YOUR TEAM NAME

HOME PHONE HAVE YOU PLAYED WITH US BEFORE? ○ YES ○ NO IF YES, ENTER YOUR PREVIOUS TEAM ID#

CREDIT CARD NUMBER (Visa, MC, AMEX & Discover accepted.) EXP. DATE

Signature email address

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TOTAL TEAM SALARY

x 1,000

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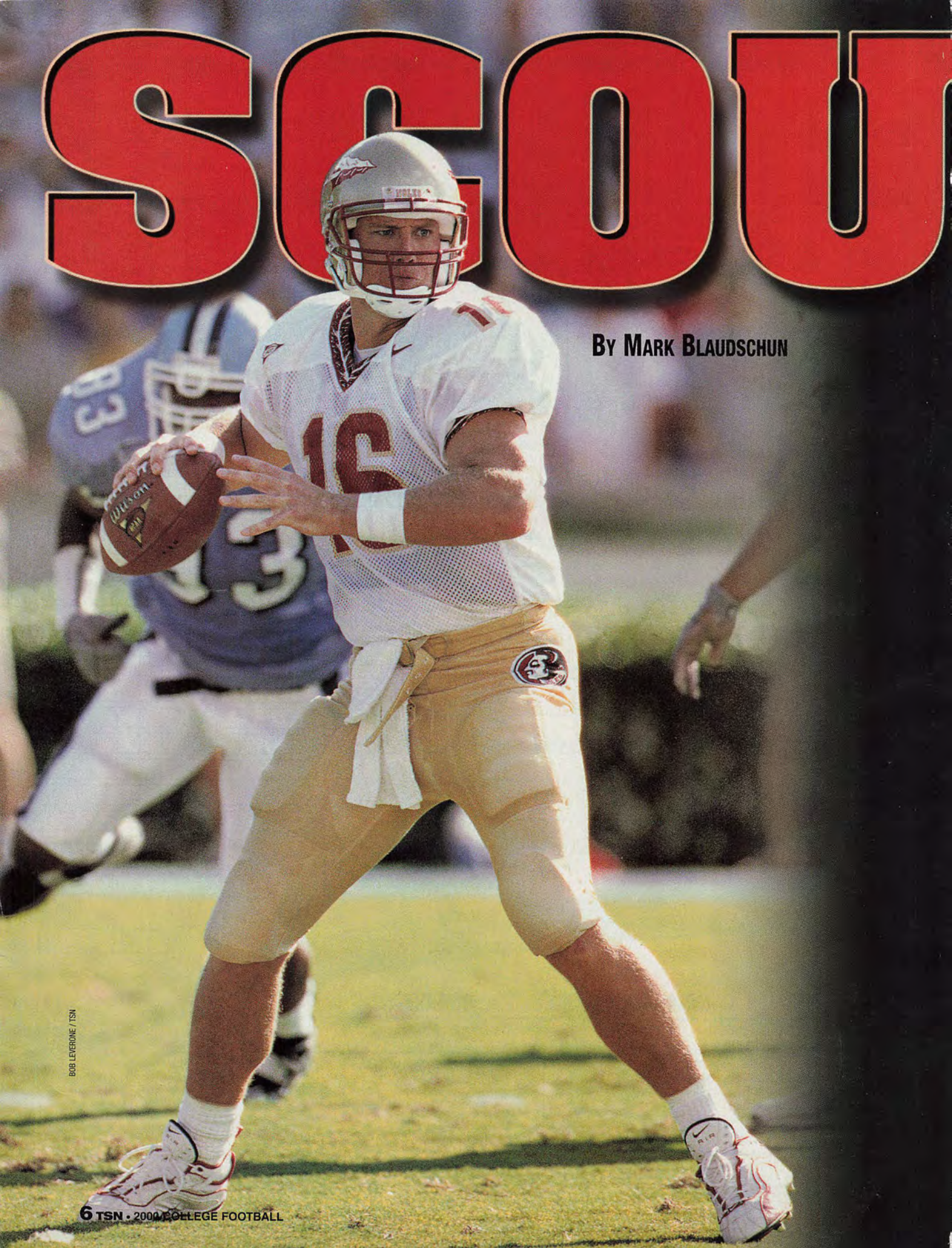
By Mark Blaudschun



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

TING THE NATION

Weinke's decision to return for his senior season gives Florida State a championship glow— but it may not be enough

How can Florida State possibly top what it accomplished the past 10-plus years? A quick perusal of the facts shows it will be a daunting challenge to begin a new century as it finished the old one:

- **Thirteen consecutive 10-win seasons.**
- **Top-four finishes in The Associated Press poll each season since 1987.**
- **Eight consecutive ACC championships.**
- **Two national championships.**

Critics might suggest the Seminoles can't possibly be hungry after winning it all last year. They'll say Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden has to slow down sometime. Remember, this is a team that is coming off a decade to die for, one in which it compiled a 109-13-1 record.

Last season ended with Florida State defeating Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl for its first national title since 1993 and Bowden's first perfect effort (12-0) in 24 years in Tallahassee. Looking ahead to this season, the theory was that with receiver Peter Warrick, quarterback Chris Weinke, kicker Sebastian Janikowski and nose tackle Corey Simon—among others—gone, the Seminoles would be very good, but not great. Then a funny thing happened: Weinke, 28, decided to return for his senior season. The lure? The chance to win back-to-back national championships and improve his stock in the NFL draft.

"There's something about winning two (titles) that appealed to me," says Weinke, who wants to slim down and show improved speed.

That changes the outlook for Florida State. Without Weinke, Florida State would have started pedestrian senior Marcus Outzen or promising junior Jared Jones. With Weinke, the Seminoles will remain a force on offense with eight starters back. Almost as important, offensive coordinator Mark Richt returns. His biggest task is finding wide receivers after losing Warrick, Ron Dugans, Germaine Stringer and Laveranues Coles. But this is Florida State, where speedy wideouts grow on trees.

Richt, likely to be on a short list of candidates to follow Bowden—he turns 71 in November— now has a virtual reality offense: What Richt thinks up in a game plan, Weinke can do, almost without Richt telling him.

The defense has plenty of athletes on a unit that returns eight starters. Losing long-time assistant head coach Chuck Amato to North Carolina State as its head coach created chaos in the winter, but things are settling down for a group that will feature boffo ends Jamal Reynolds, Roland Seymour and David Warren.

But don't hand the national title to FSU yet. There will be challengers, chiefly Nebraska, Florida State's top nemesis for national honors the past 10 years and THE SPORTING NEWS' choice for No. 1. And don't count out Wisconsin, Kansas State, Alabama, Miami (Fla.) and Texas. Any of them would not be bad choices to make it to the Orange Bowl, where the BCS Nos. 1 and 2 teams will meet for the championship.

SouthBend soap opera

Bob Davie

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

What's to be made of Notre Dame and coach Bob Davie?

This much is certain: The Irish were an un-Notre Dame-like 5-7 a year ago, their first losing season since Lou Holtz went 5-6 in his 1986 debut, after an encouraging 9-3 record in 1998. It's a given new athletic director Kevin White will take a hard look at the program and the coach at the end of the season.

Davie's cause isn't helped by a tough schedule, which begins with visits from Texas A&M, Nebraska and Purdue, followed by a trip to Michigan State and a visit from Stanford. If the Irish don't start 4-1 or 5-0, Davie could feel plenty of heat. If the team gets off to a fast start, the final six games are very winnable—except for a season-ending trip to USC.

Notre Dame, which last won the national title in 1988, might not be what it once was. An automatic berth in the top 10 and a big bowl game are no longer givens each season. The Irish gladly would have taken a spot in the Insight.com Bowl last season—had they qualified.

It all means the 2000 season will be examined closer than any under the Golden Dome since Gerry Faust's last season in 1985, a 5-6 campaign that ended with the sting of a 58-7 whipping by Miami (Fla.). There are more questions being asked than even noted Notre Dame alum Regis Philbin poses on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* **Such as:**

- **How will junior Arnaz Battle perform in place of departed quarterback Jarious Jackson?**
  Battle was just 7-of-15 passing for 84 yards and an interception last season, which causes some to question his passing savvy.
- **Can the defense fulfill its potential?**
  The unit looks to be a strength, especially the front seven. The secondary, a major sore point in 1999, also should be solid. The return of cornerback Brock Williams, who sat out '99, and the move of Tony Driver back to free safety from running back should make the unit formidable.
- **Are the wide receivers capable?**
  If you check their press clippings, these wideouts have great potential. Jamaar Taylor could emerge, as could David Givens, Javin Hunter and super recruit Jovan Witherspoon. And Jabari Holloway is one of the nation's best tight ends.

Javin Hunter

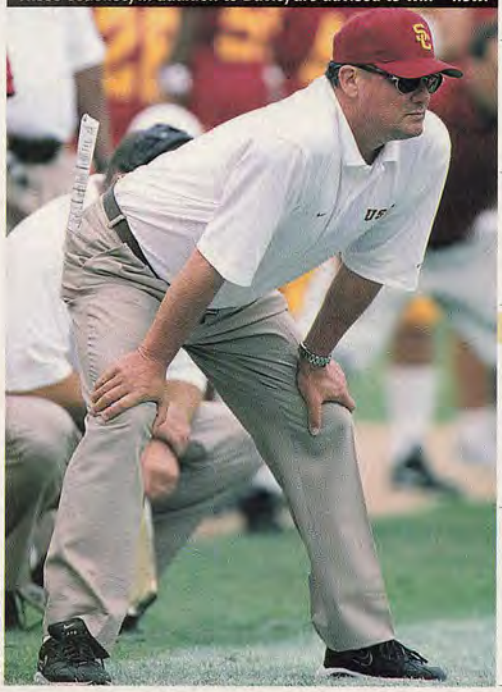
DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Former Notre Dame athletic director Mike Wadsworth took a chance when he hired Davie, who had no head coaching experience, in 1997. With Wadsworth, who gave Davie a two-year extension before leaving his post, no longer on board and Davie working for someone who didn't hire him, the future is shaky. Davie says the change in the administration won't alter his outlook. "We all know what my responsibilities are," says Davie, 21-16 at Notre Dame.

Win games—lots of them. Enough to get the Irish back to a major bowl. Davie may be able to do the job. He thinks everything will fall into place this season, and he better be right. Davie has enough talent, beginning with running back Julius Jones, an emerging star.

Under the MICROSCOPE

These coaches, in addition to Davie, are advised to win—now:



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

RUTGERS' TERRY SHEA. Lots of people are scratching their heads about why Shea still is in New Brunswick after posting eight wins in four seasons. As it turns out, Rutgers athletic director Bob Mulcahy gave Shea the word he would get one more year to try to secure the school's first winning record since 1992. If things don't improve—and we're talking about a winning record—Shea has all but been told he'll be gone. Season-opening home games with Buffalo, in just its second I-A season, and I-AA Villanova should provide a good start. After that, things get dicey.

ARIZONA'S DICK TOMEY. His team was projected as a national contender a year ago. But the Wildcats flopped out of the gate and floundered to a 6-6 record. The folks at Arizona don't expect to be a national heavyweight each season, but they expect a team that can compete in the Pac-10 and challenge for a national ranking. Tomey, who is entering his 14th season, probably doesn't have to worry in 2000, but another so-so effort could lead to increased scrutiny in 2001.

ARIZONA STATE'S BRUCE SNYDER. With athletic director Kevin White moving to Notre Dame, one of Snyder's security blankets is gone. Like Tomey, Snyder, who can't afford repeats of last year's home loss to New Mexico State, likely is safe this year, but he would be wise to avoid spending another season in the shadow of the Pac-10's also-rans to avoid increased pressure in 2001. The program has failed to capitalize on its 1996 Rose Bowl season.

USC'S PAUL HACKETT. Many expect this to be the season USC regains its status as a Pac-10 power. Many also expect Hackett, entering his third year, to produce more than a provincial power in 2000. But having the Trojans make the leap from a 6-6 season in 1999 to national championship contender might be asking too much. But getting to the Rose Bowl for the first time since the 1995 season is within reach. The danger for USC, which will be anchored by a good defense and the return of quarterback Carson Palmer from injury, is a Kickoff Classic date with Penn State. As Arizona learned painfully last season when it opened with a 41-7 loss at Penn State in the Pigskin Classic, early-season exposure on national television can be a bad thing. At least Hackett can be comforted by the fact A.D. Mike Garrett hired him.

NORTH CAROLINA'S CARL TORBUSH. He was all but gone last December. A 3-8 season and a feeling the program was floundering had the Carolina administration ready to make a move. But then came the public backlash. Two years—one of them an 8-5 season and the second characterized by injuries, particularly to quarterback Ronald Curry—wasn't enough time. It wasn't fair. It wasn't the Carolina way. So, Torbush lived to see another season, but he better win. Curry should be healthy, which will help. The schedule isn't a killer—Tulsa, Marshall and Pittsburgh are the non-conference games—which also will help. But anything less than a bowl game probably won't be enough to prevent the ax from falling.

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QUESTIONS & answers

OK, it's top 10 time

No, this isn't a top 10 ranking of teams. You can find that elsewhere in the magazine (page 16). These are the top 10 questions of the 2000 season.

10. Q: ***How will Nick Saban fare in his first season at LSU?***
A: Fine. The Tigers were 3-8 a year ago, so even a .500 season will be regarded as good by the Bayou faithful. And Saban can coach. He proved that at Michigan State. He has 19 starters back from a team that basically quit on Gerry DiNardo last season. Saban's cause will be helped by having potential star quarterback Josh Booty on hand.

Drew Brees

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

9. Q: ***Can Davie survive at Notre Dame?***
A: Yes, but the Irish better avoid injuries and get off to a fast start. After an October 7 game against Stanford, the Irish should do OK; Navy, West Virginia, Air Force, Boston College, Rutgers and USC are winnable games, although it might take some doing to beat the Trojans in Los Angeles. The feeling here is that it will take at least seven wins—probably eight—for Davie to be secure.

8. Q: ***Who will win the Heisman?***
A: There's more about that on page 41. But it looks like a two-man race between Virginia Tech quarterback Michael Vick and Purdue passer Drew Brees. Each will have ample talent to work with, but numbers aren't all that matter. Each likely will have to deliver league titles—or come very close—to bring home the hardware.

7. Q: ***Which teams will be sleepers?***
A: Keep an eye on Washington and Clemson. Both have good young coaches in Rick Neuheisel at Washington and Tommy Bowden at Clemson, and it took each a year to get his system in place. Clemson might have an easier time because its schedule isn't as demanding. Clemson has three speed bumps (The Citadel, Missouri and South Carolina) in non-conference play and just one tough league road game (at Florida State). The Huskies play host to Miami (Fla.) and travel to Colorado for Neuheisel-Gary Barnett Part 2 in non-conference games. At least they avoid Pac-10 favorite USC.

Lou Holtz

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

6. Q: ***Will the BCS work without controversy?***
A: Yes. Take this scenario: Nebraska, Texas and Florida State finish the regular season unbeaten. Nebraska and Texas will meet in the Big 12 title game, with the winner meeting Florida State in the Orange Bowl for the national championship. The winner? See below.

5. Q: ***Which team will be the biggest disappointment?***
A: Michigan. The Wolverines have seven starters back on offense. And that doesn't include wunderkind quarterback Drew Henson. They are coming off an Orange Bowl victory over Alabama but ... there's always a but with Michigan. The Wolverines need to retool their defense because their front seven was ravaged by graduation. All will appear well in Ann Arbor after Michigan opens with victories over Bowling Green and Rice. But trips to UCLA and Illinois are next, followed by a visit from Big Ten favorite Wisconsin and a journey to Purdue. Those preseason hopes could melt into a 2-4 or 3-3 start.

4. Q: ***What will be the biggest upset?***
A: Kentucky will beat Florida in Gainesville September 23 a week after Florida beats Tennessee in Knoxville. Call it a case of the post-Vols letdown. The Wildcats finally have the athletes on defense to at least slow down the Gators. And Hal Mumme's charges should have enough offense to solve what looks to be a strong Florida defense.

3. Q: ***Will there be signs of life at South Carolina?***
A: There better be. It's inconceivable that Lou Holtz can go 0-11 a second consecutive season. The Gamecocks, whose 21-game losing skein is the nation's longest, have non-conference home games against New Mexico State and Eastern Michigan, which should be winnable. If they lose those two, the Chicken Curse must be true. Still, the Gamecocks, who have played good defense under Holtz, have to be better on offense after ranking last among 114 Division I-A schools in 1999.

2. Q: ***Which two teams could pull a surprise and play for the national championship?***
A: With all the talk about a Nebraska-Florida State matchup, how about Kansas State vs. Miami? Kansas State has been pointing toward 2000 since the Wildcats' 1998 season ended in rubble in the Big 12 title game. It's key for a quarterback and running back to develop. K-State's cause is helped by playing Nebraska at home. Miami looks ready to regain its swagger. The Hurricanes get Virginia Tech and Florida State at home, but an early-season trip to Washington could prove treacherous. The key will be keeping quarterback Ken Dorsey healthy.

1. Q: ***Who will be the national champion?***

Eric Crouch

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

A: Though Florida State is loaded, it's hard to pick against Nebraska. The Cornhuskers have to clear hurdles at Oklahoma and Kansas State, but that shouldn't be a problem given Nebraska's talented defense, led by linebacker Carlos Polk. The offense is equally adept, but it's important that quarterback Eric Crouch remains in one piece and someone takes command at I-back.

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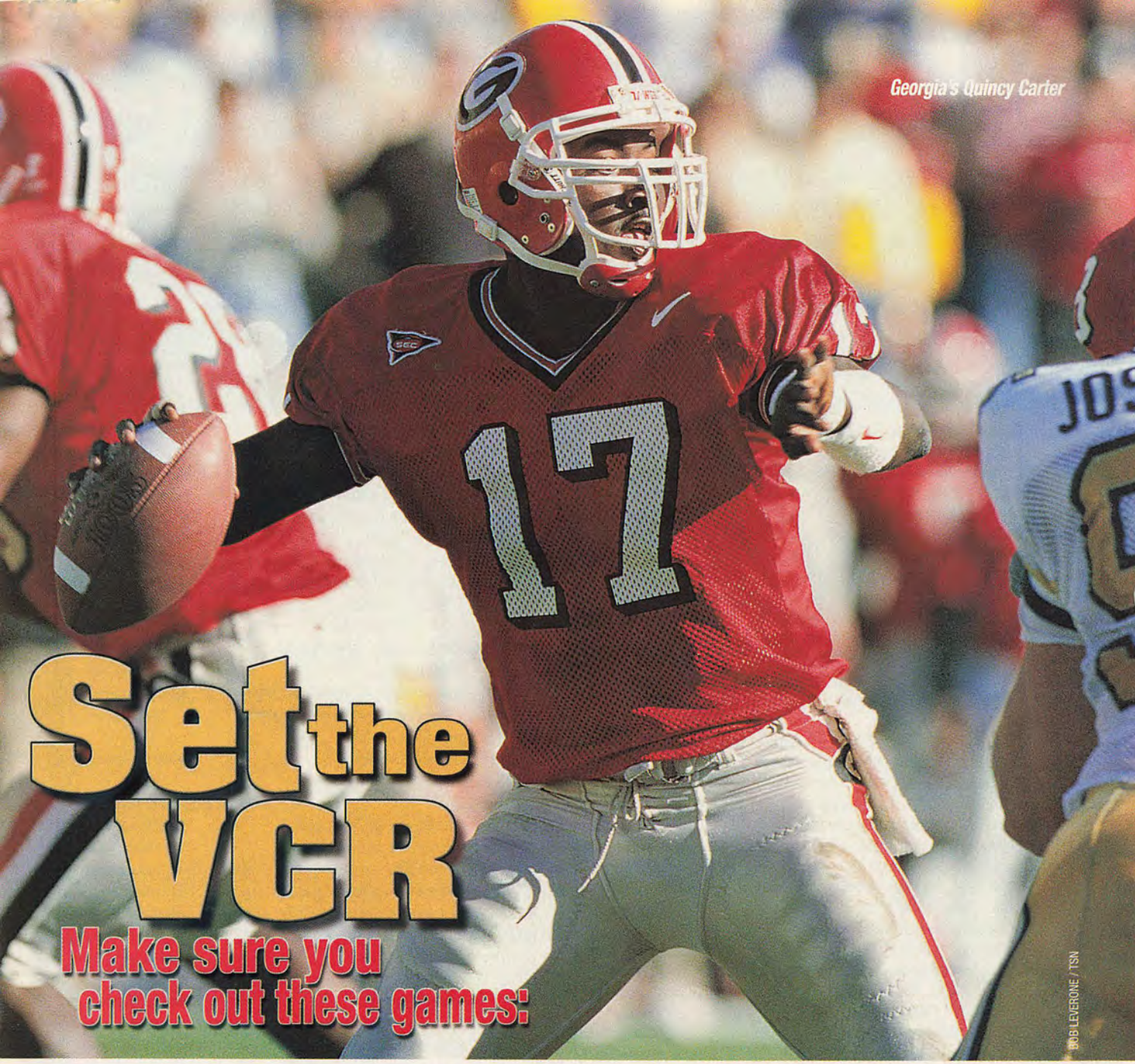

Georgia's Quincy Carter

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Set the VCR

Make sure you check out these games:

Nebraska at Notre Dame, September 9. Notre Dame will be coming off a home game with Texas A&M, and Nebraska will have played at home against San Jose State. The teams last met after the 1972 season in the Orange Bowl, which the Huskers won, 40-6. The teams last played in South Bend in 1947, with the Irish winning 31-0 on the way to a national title behind the play of Heisman winner John Lujack.

Florida at Tennessee, September 16. This has become the biggest game of the year—with the exception of the Florida-Florida State tussle. The loser typically is out of the national title picture, but the game is early enough in the season for the defeated to have a chance to rise. The Gators have won six of the past seven meetings, but the Vols broke Steve Spurrier's spell with an overtime victory the last time the schools met in Knoxville.

Texas vs. Oklahoma in Dallas, October 7. The game could match a pair of undefeated teams in a Red River rivalry that lost lots of luster in the 1990s. Both teams were ranked when they met only twice since 1985. It looks like the bad blood is back.

Tennessee at Georgia, October 7. This may be the year the Bulldogs, buoyed by Heisman candidate Quincy Carter at quarterback and a talented defense that figures to get better with experience, finally leapfrog Florida and Tennessee and win the SEC East for the first time. The Vols have been a thorn in Georgia's side, having won the past nine meetings. The last time the 'Dawgs whipped the Vols was 1988. Georgia, which has lost nine of the last 10 to the Gators, meets Florida in Jacksonville October 28.

Virginia Tech at Miami, November 4. This could decide a national championship appearance and the Heisman race. The Hurricanes will be motivated by the fact the Hokies have won the past five meetings, including two in a row at Miami.

Florida at Florida State, November 18. The quintessential title-elimination bout. The winner of this game has played for the national title five times in the past seven years with the schools combining for three national championships. Enough said.

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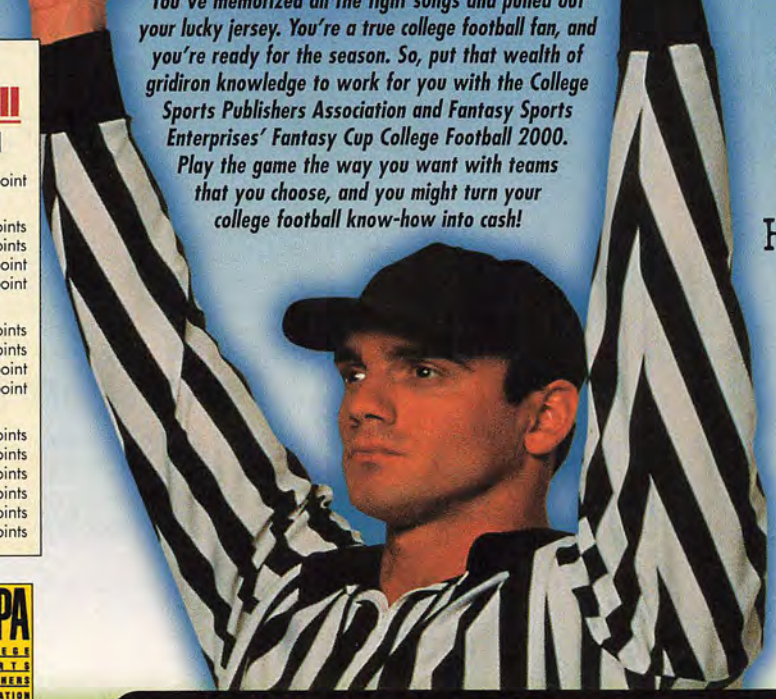

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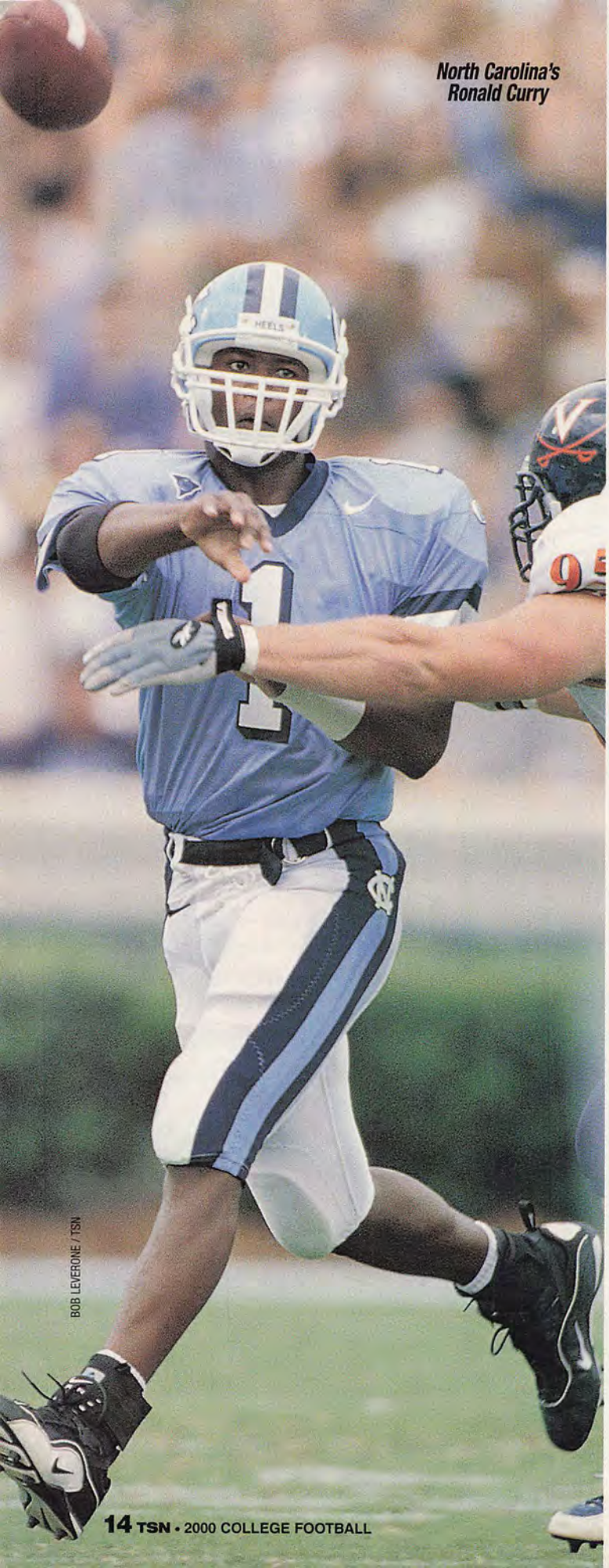
❑ Alabama $1,720,000	❑ Idaho $875,000	❑ Nebraska $2,200,000	❑ Texas A&M $1,550,000
❑ Alabama-Birmingham $390,000	❑ Illinois $1,065,000	❑ New Mexico State $360,000	❑ Texas Christian $1,180,000
❑ Arizona $1,135,000	❑ Indiana $515,000	❑ North Carolina $450,000	❑ Texas Tech $715,000
❑ Arizona State $790,000	❑ Iowa $300,000	❑ North Carolina State $750,000	❑ Toledo $710,000
❑ Arkansas $1,500,000	❑ Kansas $420,000	❑ Notre Dame $1,165,000	❑ Tulane $380,000
❑ Army $300,000	❑ Kansas State $2,175,000	❑ Ohio State $1,400,000	❑ UCLA $1,000,000
❑ Auburn $835,000	❑ Kentucky $915,000	❑ Oklahoma $1,350,000	❑ Utah $1,475,000
❑ Boise State $1,000,000	❑ Louisiana Tech $1,090,000	❑ Oklahoma State $775,000	❑ Vanderbilt $550,000
❑ Boston College $900,000	❑ Louisville $1,100,000	❑ Oregon $1,650,000	❑ Virginia $1,220,000
❑ Brigham Young $1,310,000	❑ LSU $575,000	❑ Oregon State $1,170,000	❑ Virginia Tech $2,110,000
❑ California $350,000	❑ Marshall $1,870,000	❑ Penn State $1,785,000	❑ Wake Forest $835,000
❑ Clemson $1,240,000	❑ Maryland $760,000	❑ Pittsburgh $610,000	❑ Washington $1,250,000
❑ Colorado $1,270,000	❑ Memphis $510,000	❑ Purdue $1,625,000	❑ West Virginia $660,000
❑ Colorado State $1,285,000	❑ Miami-Florida $1,700,000	❑ Rice $460,000	❑ Western Michigan $825,000
❑ East Carolina $1,245,000	❑ Miami-Ohio $850,000	❑ San Diego State $810,000	❑ Wisconsin $2,050,000
❑ Florida $2,080,000	❑ Michigan $1,765,000	❑ Southern Mississippi $1,485,000	❑ Wyoming $950,000
❑ Florida State $2,255,000	❑ Michigan State $1,925,000	❑ South Carolina $300,000	
❑ Fresno State $1,005,000	❑ Minnesota $1,375,000	❑ Southern Calif. (USC) $1,075,000	
❑ Georgia $1,525,000	❑ Mississippi $1,265,000	❑ Stanford $1,400,000	
❑ Georgia Tech $1,730,000	❑ Mississippi State $1,325,000	❑ Syracuse $1,110,000	
❑ Hawaii $740,000	❑ Missouri $400,000	❑ Tennessee $1,950,000	

Any Division 1-A School not listed is $300,000. "Transitional" 1-A schools (i.e. South Florida) are eligible to be selected as well.

* Void where prohibited. Not officially affiliated with NCAA or any school. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years of age. Deadline: Opening kickoff on September 16, 2000 to be eligible for the Grand Prize. Values above are valid for the first two weekends of the Challenge.



North Carolina's Ronald Curry

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Welcome back

Didn't you used to be Ricky Williams?

He still is. Only he plays at Texas Tech, not for the New Orleans Saints—home of the 1998 Heisman winner and Texas legend by the same name. And if Tech's Williams, a senior, has recovered from the torn ACL in his left knee in the season opener last year, he could have a special season.

Tech's new coach, Mike Leach, is putting in the spread offense he used as the offensive coordinator at Oklahoma a year ago. It favors passing, but it gives a running back room to roam by creating big seams in defenses. "My main goal is to get 1,000 yards receiving and 1,000 yards rushing," says Williams, who didn't have any contact in spring drills. Don't bet against a guy who finished fourth in the nation in rushing in 1998.

North Carolina quarterback Ronald Curry (torn Achilles' tendon), USC quarterback Carson Palmer (broken collarbone), North Carolina linebacker Brandon Spoon (torn biceps), UCLA receiver Brian Poli-Dixon (broken wrist), Miami (Fla.) running back Najeh Davenport (injured knee), Georgia Tech running back Joe Burns (broken ankle), Michigan running back Justin Fargas (broken leg), Oregon cornerback Rashad Bauman (knee injury) and Houston receiver Jerrian James (broken leg) are other key players who look to bounce back after missing all or most of last season.

Just add water

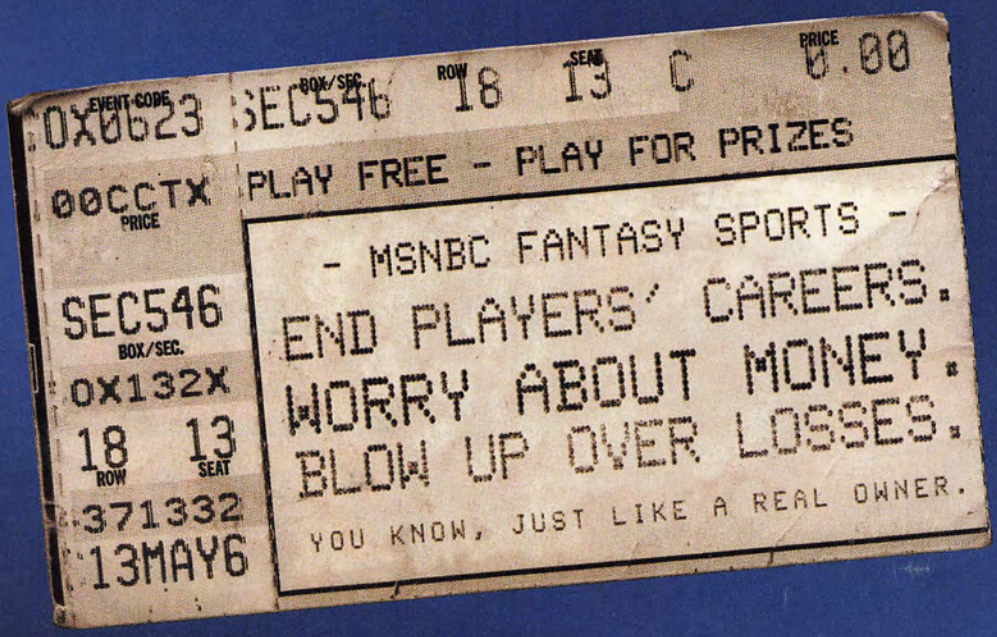
When schools sign junior college transfers, they expect immediate results. These arrivals should deliver in 2000:

Greg Cicero, QB, Baylor
Thunder Collins, RB, Nebraska
Paul Glass, DE, Arizona State
Rudi Johnson, RB, Auburn
Bobby Pesavento, QB, Colorado
Maurice Morris, RB, Oregon
Josh Scobey, RB, Kansas State
Javon Walker, WR, Florida State

Fearless predictions

- The Pac-10 will get better, and the SEC will slip—not because of less talent but because of more balance.
- If anyone emerges from the SEC unbeaten, it will be a surprise. The league is too tough from top to bottom. Even South Carolina will be better.
- The Big East will re-establish its role as a player (at least at the top) with the emergence of Miami as a national-title contender. Boston College is a rising power under Tom O'Brien. And never count out Virginia Tech and Syracuse.
- The BCS will prove it can hold a championship game of merit, but once again no one will care about the other BCS games (Rose, Fiesta, Sugar). Such is life when you put so much focus on one game.
- Critics will blast the BCS system.
- Rivalry weekend November 18 will produce memorable games, whether they are Auburn-Alabama, Michigan-Ohio State or Florida-Florida State.
- Ohio State will play its way back to national prominence after a 6-6 season in which it failed to reach a bowl for the first time since 1988.
- Rutgers will endure its eighth consecutive losing season.
- Florida State will finish no worse than No. 4 in the final polls.
- Kansas State will grouse about lack of respect because of its schedule. And if it loses a game, it again will be knocked down to a lesser bowl.
- Davie's job status will be the biggest story of the season.
- The Pac-10 won't produce the national champion—nor will the Big Ten. The Pac-10 hasn't generated a consensus national champion since USC in 1972. Washington shared the crown in 1991 with Miami (Fla.). Michigan won half the title in 1997 with Nebraska, but the conference hasn't had a consensus No. 1 since Ohio State won it all in 1968. **TSN**

Mark Blaudschun covers college football for the Boston Globe.



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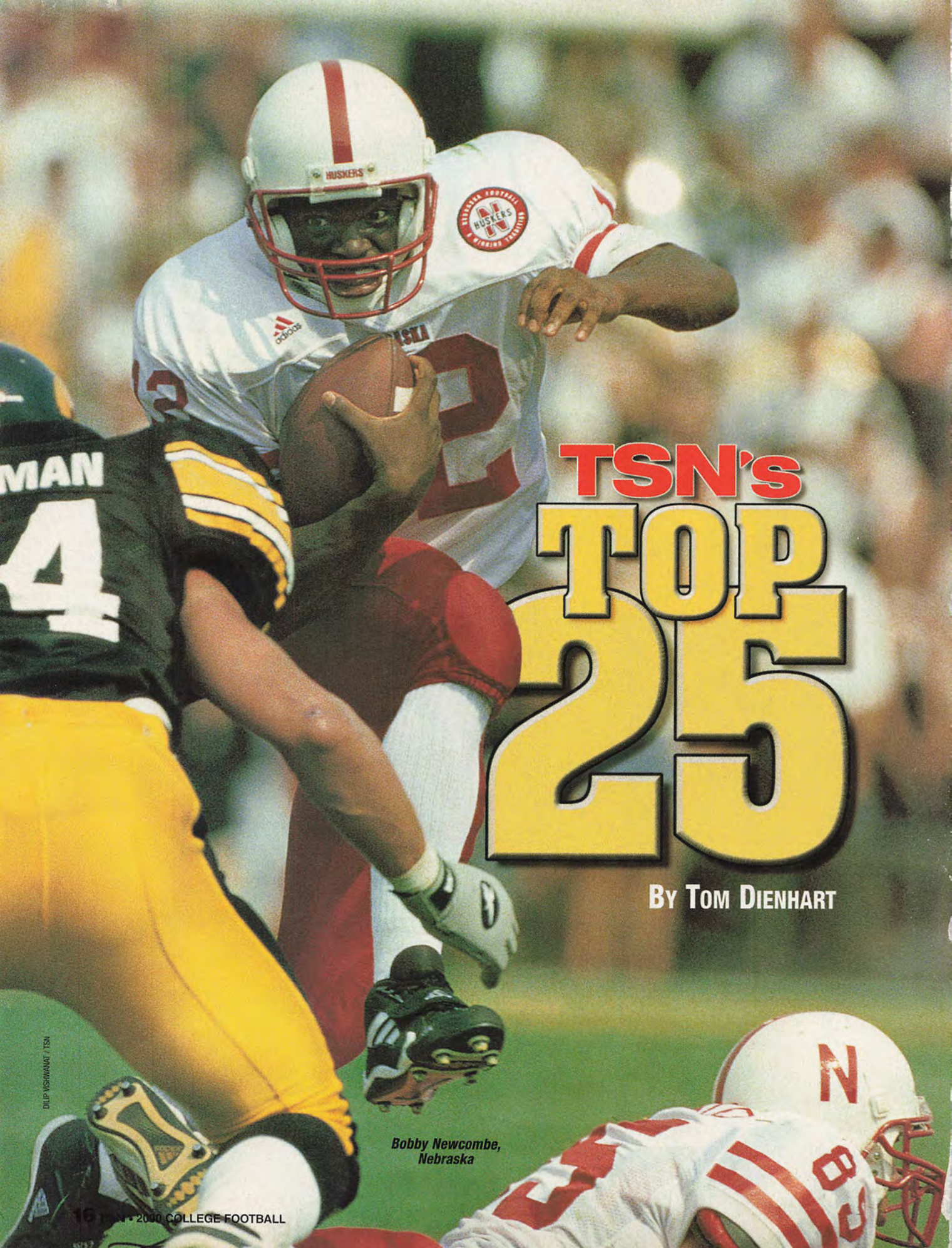


TSN's TOP 25

By Tom Dienhart

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Bobby Newcombe, Nebraska

1. Nebraska

At Nebraska, they like to keep things simple. It starts with the design of the "N" of the side of the Cornhuskers' helmets and extends to a playbook that seemingly contains option left, option right, play-action pass off the option and little else. Hey, why mess with success (81-8 over the last seven years, with three national titles)? This year's offense is ready to play right out of the package. It starts up front with a hearty helping of line play. If you like meat and potatoes, check out G Russ Hochstein and C Dominic Raiola. QB Eric Crouch is a tough optionmeister who must avoid injury because there's no depth. When Crouch isn't pitching, passing or pedaling up field, a bevy of I-backs will carry the load. Keep an eye on big-but-fragile Dan Alexander and JC transfer Thunder Collins, whose name and game conjure mythical images. And look for Frank Solich to scribble a few plays in the dirt for TE Tracey Wistrom and wingback Bobby Newcombe, the nation's slitheriest player. It's back to basics for a defense that returns seven starters and likes to play with its sleeves rolled up. Insiders say Carlos Polk is the best linebacker ever from Big Red Land. Kyle Vanden Bosch and Chris Kelsay will bring heat from the end spots, and T Loran Kaiser will stuff the middle. The Brown boys (Mike and Ralph) will be missed from the secondary, but there's lots to like in CB Keyuo Craver and S Joe Walker. And kicking the ball will be little problem with K Josh Brown and P Dan Hadenfeldt. Whether Nebraska aces its schedule will be determined by a November trip to Kansas State, where the Huskers lost the last time they visited. Simply put, this is the best team in the nation.

2. Florida State

You can't blame 70-year-old Bobby Bowden for hanging around. Have you seen the mother lode of talent in Tallahassee? It starts with QB Chris Weinke, who at 28 knows something about old age. He has the hairline to prove it, too. RB Travis Minor, one of eight offensive starters back, heads a strong running back corps that will be escorted by three returning line starters. It's just a matter of sorting through the blue chips to find big-play wideouts. The defense, with eight starters back, is equally as star-studded. Roland Seymour and Jamal Reynolds are the next great ends, Tommy Polley is one of three returning starting linebackers and the secondary brims with experience. The lone question is finding two tackles. That won't cause Bowden's hair to turn gray, but trying to replace K Sebastian Janikowski may cause him to lose some hair—as will a trip to Miami. At least Florida visits in what may be an encore national championship performance for the Seminoles.

3. Alabama

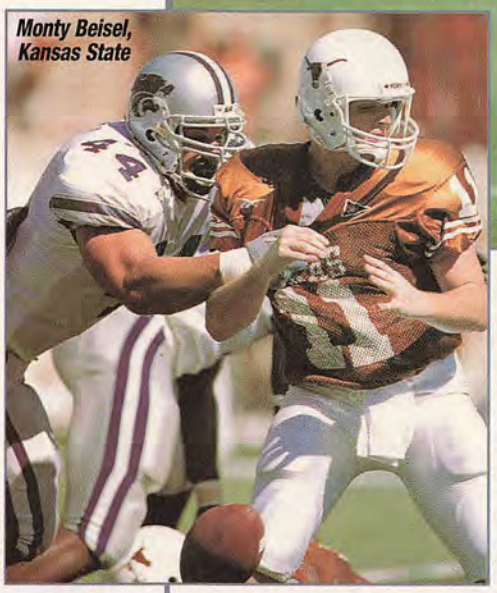
Alabama wasn't such a sweet home for Mike DuBose last year. But by following through on a pledge to update his attack, DuBose is now king of the castle in Tuscaloosa. DuBose's reign could grow stronger with dynamic playmaking WR Freddie Milons back to run deep, take handoffs and line up under center. While the Tide will miss RB Shaun Alexander, his replacement—likely Shaun Bohanon, but keep an eye on redshirt freshman Brandon Miree—will work behind a strong line. That makes QB Andrew Zow happy. Speaking of quarterback, Zow is the man—for now. It will be vital that a Zow-Tyler Watts battle doesn't become a divisive force. The defense is a disruptive force. The line will rank among the nation's best with Es Kindal Moorehead and Kenny King reminding fans of John Copeland and Eric Curry, who anchored the school's last national title team in 1992. But the biggest star is LB Saleem Rasheed, a whirling dervish who can hit. A secondary that returns all four starters is another brick in the wall. The season opener at UCLA could be bitter, as may trips to Arkansas and Tennessee.

4. Wisconsin

Ron Dayne has left the building, but there's still lots of excitement in Madison. In fact, tickets will be as tight as ever in Camp Randall Stadium for the two-time Rose Bowl champs. The defense will get rock-star treatment. Wendell Bryant, one of the best tackles in the nation, and Jamar Fletcher, the nation's top cornerback, are the headliners of a unit that returns eight starters. The only area that needs coaching-up is the linebacking corps, which lost two starters. The continued development of sophomore QB Brooks Bollinger may make the offense better than it ever was with Dayne in the backfield. Bollinger will be afforded security provided by three returning line starters. And he'll have a good target in Chris Chambers, who will create running lanes for Dayne protege Michael Bennett. The special teams again will be worth the price of admission, with Nick Davis returning kicks, Kevin Stemke punting and Russian Vitaly Pisetsky kicking. Should the Badgers win at Michigan, they may be headlining the national title game.

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Chris Chambers, Wisconsin



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Monty Beisel, Kansas State

5. Kansas State

Remember 1998? K-State fans would like to forget it. That was when the Wildcats came within a whisker of playing for the national title. They're back—and maybe better than ever. Defense will be the cornerstone. The line, headed by T Mario Fatafehi and E Monty Beisel, and the secondary, paced by SS Jarrod Cooper, are loaded. But the linebacking corps will miss Mark Simoneau. And, as usual, the special teams are a cut above with K Jamie Rheem and return man David Allen ranking among the nation's best. The Wildcats never are too wild on offense, but they may want to consider opening things up with receivers like Aaron Lockett and Quincy Morgan. But is QB Jonathan Beasley capable of finding them? If not, he may give way to Ell Roberson, who reminds many of '98 star Michael Bishop. Still, the passing game may flop if the left side of the line isn't developed or if a running back (Allen? JC Josh Scobey? Joe Hall?) fails to emerge. The schedule? Forget about it. Trips to Colorado and Texas A&M loom, but Nebraska visits.

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NFL Players Fantasy Football rosters consist of 12 active players that must correspond with specific positions. The total salary of the 12 active players must be less than or equal to 420.

2 – Quarterbacks 3 – Running Backs
4 – Receivers 2 – Kickers
1 – Defense/Special Teams

Teams submitted with incorrect or incomplete rosters will have a temporary roster assigned to them.

REPORTS

Update reports will be mailed every three weeks throughout the season, beginning week #3 (Sept. 20, 2000) and are included in your entry fee. Customers may upgrade to weekly reports starting in week #3 for $14.95. Specify on your order form if you wish to upgrade.

LEAGUES

All teams will be placed in 30-team leagues. League formation will be finalized at the end of week #2. Multiple entries with different names in the same envelope will be place in the same league unless otherwise specified.

SALARY UPGRADES

Three salary upgrades will occur throughout the season in which the salary of the top player from each of the five possible positions (i.e. Quarterback, Running Back, etc.) will be upgraded by $5 based on the player's previous four week average score divided by his salary. There will only be one player upgraded for each position. Players must be featured on Active Roster in weeks 5, 9 & 13 in order to benefit from the salary upgrade.

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Player trades are unlimited at $1.50 per trade. The deadline for trading is every Sunday at 11 am CT. **All trades prior to September 3, 2000 are FREE.**

PICK OF THE WEEK

Beginning in week 2, one player is selected each week by PSI's Advisory Board. That player receives double points for that week's game.

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Contains the complete official roster, weekly tracking sheets, 2000 NFL Schedule, Interactive Commissioner Instructions, and the official rules.

Join Resident Fantasy Expert Brady Tinker and former NFL players James Lofton and Bob Golic for the Pre-Season special beginning on August 8th. Then tune-in every week for all your fantasy information needs. Check your local listings for details.

PASSING	PTS
Pass for TD > 40 yds	6
Pass for TD ≤ 40 yds	3
Pass for 2 pt. conv	1
Every full 25 passing yds	1
RUSH/RECEIVE	**PTS**
Rush/Rec for TD > 40 yds	9
Rush/Rec for TD ≤ 40 yds	6
Rush/Rec for 2 pt. conv	2
Every full 10 rush/rec yds	1
BONUS SCORING SCENARIOS	
100 yds rushing	5
100 yds receiving	5
300 yds passing	5
Field Goal ≥ 50 yds	5
Defense allows < 6 pts	5
Defensive Shutout	10

KICKING	PTS
Field Goals	3
Extra Point	1
DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS	**PTS**
Defensive TD	6
Kick/Punt return TD	6
Fumble rec/Interception	2
Safety	2
Sack	1

Drop Lowest 2 Week Scores*

*See official rules for details.

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5th: $1,000
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*See official rules for details.

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Select 12 NFL Players using a salary cap less than or equal to 420

Quarterbacks (Select 2)

ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
3188	Kurt Warner	STL	68
3120	Steve Beuerlein	CAR	60
3107	Peyton Manning	IND	55
3102	Brett Favre	GB	53
3113	Brad Johnson	WAS	53
3110	Drew Bledsoe	NE	45
3122	Rich Gannon	OAK	45
3138	Jeff George	WAS	45
3121	Elvis Grbac	KC	42
3144	Jon Kitna	SEA	42
3114	Mark Brunnell	JAC	39
3109	Steve McNair	TEN	39
3104	Chris Chandler	ATL	39
3129	Tim Couch	CLE	34
3115	Troy Aikman	DAL	27
3105	Vinny Testaverde	NYJ	27
3112	Doug Flutie	BUF	27
3101	Steve Young	SF	27
3108	Jake Plummer	ARZ	27
3119	Trent Dilfer	BAL	24
3118	Charlie Batch	DET	24
3172	Brian Griese	DEN	24
3199	Chad Pennington	NYJ	24
3116	Kordell Stewart	PIT	23
3127	Tony Banks	BAL	23

Running Backs (Select 3)

ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
5103	Marshall Faulk	STL	67
5117	Edgerrin James	IND	62
5189	Stephen Davis	WAS	60
5107	Emmitt Smith	DAL	60
5109	Curtis Martin	NYJ	60
5114	Eddie George	TEN	60
5111	Ricky Watters	SEA	53
5105	Dorsey Levens	GB	49
5115	Duce Staley	PHI	48
5122	Corey Dillon	CIN	44
5101	Terrell Davis	DEN	44
5104	Fred Taylor	JAC	44
5102	Jamal Anderson	ATL	44
5108	Robert Smith	MIN	39
5267	Jamal Lewis	BAL	39
5120	Jerome Bettis	PIT	39
5268	Thomas Jones	ARZ	39
5251	Tyrone Wheatley	OAK	34
5269	Ron Dayne	NYG	34
5123	Mike Alstott	TB	34
5270	Shaun Alexander	SEA	34
5125	Tim Biakabutuka	CAR	29
5113	Ricky Williams	NO	29
5129	James Stewart	DET	29
5121	Antowain Smith	BUF	28
5159	Charlie Garner	SF	28
5146	Terry Allen	FA	27
5126	Napoleon Kaufman	OAK	27
5127	Karim Abdul-Jabbar	CLE	24

Receivers (Select 4)

ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
7119	Marvin Harrison	IND	62
7102	Randy Moss	MIN	62
7236	Marcus Robinson	CHI	62
7110	Jimmy Smith	JAC	56
7115	Tim Brown	OAK	56
7107	Keyshawn Johnson	TB	56
7125	Mushin Muhammid	CAR	50
7108	Cris Carter	MIN	50
7145	Isaac Bruce	STL	50
7136	Michael Westbrook	WAS	48
7139	Terry Glenn	NE	44
7156	Germaine Crowell	DET	44
7168	Amani Toomer	NYG	38
7103	Eric Moulds	BUF	38
7275	Qadry Ismail	BAL	38
7167	Albert Connell	WAS	38
7177	Patrick Jeffers	CAR	38
7101	Antonio Freeman	GB	38
7127	Raghib Ismail	DAL	38
7279	Peter Warrick	CIN	36
7113	Ed McCaffrey	DEN	32
7133	Johnnie Morton	DET	32
7123	Darnay Scott	CIN	32
7116	Tony Martin	MIA	32
7280	Plaxico Burress	PIT	32
7109	Rod Smith	DEN	32
7181	Bill Schroeder	GB	32
7104	Terrell Owens	SF	32
7106	Joey Galloway	DAL	32
7281	Travis Taylor	BAL	32
7122	Keenan McCardell	JAC	32
7158	Ike Hilliard	NYG	29
7105	Terrance Mathis	ATL	29
7111	Rob Moore	ARZ	29
7118	Jerry Rice	SF	29
7114	O J McDuffie	MIA	29
7112	Herman Moore	DET	29
7135	Derrick Alexander	KC	29
7120	Bobby Engram	CHI	28
7264	Kevin Johnson	CLE	28
7140	Sean Dawkins	SEA	28
7166	Jeff Graham	SD	28
7124	Carl Pickens	CIN	28
9112	Tony Gonzalez	KC	26
9108	Wesley Walls	CAR	23
9105	Frank Wycheck	TEN	20
9113	Jay Riemersma	BUF	20
9101	Shannon Sharpe	BAL	20
9102	Ben Coates	FA	20
9107	O J Santiago	ATL	18
9106	Rickey Dudley	OAK	18
9104	Cameron Cleeland	NO	14
9103	Andrew Glover	NO	14
9194	Bubba Franks	NYJ	14
9114	Stephen Alexander	WAS	14
9115	Kyle Brady	JAC	14
9111	Tyrone Davis	GB	14
9110	Freddie Jones	SD	14
9126	Tony McGee	CIN	12

Kickers (Select 2)

ID#	Player Name	Team	Salary
1113	Mike Vanderjagt	IND	39
1116	Olindo Mare	MIA	33
1112	Mike Hollis	JAC	32
1117	Todd Peterson	SEA	30
1126	Jeff Wilkins	STL	30
1121	Martin Gramatica	TB	30
1106	Jason Elam	DEN	29
1125	Matt Stover	BAL	28
1136	Brett Conway	WAS	28
1118	John Carney	SD	27
1104	Ryan Longwell	GB	25
1109	John Hall	NYJ	25
1103	Al Del Greco	TEN	24
1139	Sebastian Janikowski	OAK	23
1110	Pete Stoyanovich	KC	23
1111	Jason Hanson	DET	23
1122	John Kasay	CAR	23
1102	Steve Christie	BUF	23

Defense (Select 1)

ID#	Player Name	Salary
2101	St Louis	42
2102	Jacksonville	39
2103	Baltimore	37
2104	Tennessee	37
2105	Kansas City	36
2106	Seattle	35
2107	Washington	33
2108	Green Bay	33
2109	NY Jets	32
2110	Dallas	28
2111	Denver	27
2112	Oakland	25
2113	Miami	25
2114	New England	25
2115	Detroit	24
2116	Philadelphia	23
2117	Pittsburgh	23
2118	Tampa Bay	22
2119	Buffalo	21
2120	Minnesota	21
2121	Carolina	21
2122	NY Giants	20
2123	San Diego	20
2124	Chicago	20
2125	Indianapolis	20
2126	San Francisco	19
2127	New Orleans	19
2128	Atlanta	19
2129	Arizona	19
2130	Cincinnati	18
2131	Cleveland	18

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QB		
RB		
RB		
RB		
REC		
REC		
REC		
REC		
K		
K		
DEF		
TOTAL SALARY		

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6. Miami (Fla.)

Just as the Hurricanes change uniforms, they appear to be reverting to their old form. If Miami is to return to prominence, it will have to overcome the losses of QB Kenny Kelly (who left to pursue a baseball career), TE Bubba Franks (who left a year early for the NFL) and LB Nate Webster (who was declared ineligible after applying for the NFL draft). Still, don't weep for the 'Canes. As long as QB Ken Dorsey stays healthy, all will be well for an offense that teems with skill talent. There are WRs Santana Moss and Reggie Wayne and RBs James Jackson and Clinton Portis, who will run behind a line that returns three starters. But it's the defense that really has fans feeling warm and fuzzy about the 1980s. The Y2K 'Canes feature nine returning starters on defense, including the nation's top secondary. And even without Webster, Miami's linebacking corps will spell trouble with Dan Morgan, Chris Campbell and the nation's top recruit, D.J. Williams. Except for a trip to Washington, the schedule looks good with Florida State and Virginia Tech visiting.

7. Texas

Hold on there, pardner. Before you go talking national championship, check out the offense. That was the Texas line that allowed 20 sacks during the team's season-ending three-game losing skein last season. At least the big boys have slimmed down. That was QB Major Applewhite, the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year, rehabbing his knee in the offseason. Sure, golden boy Chris Simms, who will wear No. 1 this season, is on hand, but Applewhite doesn't figure to shrink like a Texas rose. Could there be a controversy brewing? Also, undersized RB Hodges Mitchell needs help, and there's no go-to wideout, though there are lots of good-looking youngsters. But it's OK for fans to give a Hook 'em Horns salute to the defense, which will be tough against the run thanks to Ts Casey Hampton and Shaun Rogers. The unit also will be improved against the pass with increased blitzing from an athletic corps of linebackers. Plus, there's more depth and speed in the secondary. And Texas plays a Rhode Island-sized schedule—there's no Nebraska or Kansas State.

8. Florida

Steve Spurrier had a confession to make last year: He was a little hard on the boys. Will a kinder, gentler Evil Genius emerge? Not likely. An offense in search of a quarterback and receivers should keep him cranky. Jesse Palmer is the quarterback on the hot seat. But redshirt freshman Rex Grossman and true freshman Brock Berlin, the nation's top prep passer who graduated from high school a semester early so he could attend spring practice, are just a few overthrows from taking snaps. With WRs Darrell Jackson and Travis Taylor cashing NFL checks a year early, Spurrier had open auditions in the spring. He's hoping incoming talent makes him forget what he saw. At least RBs Earnest Graham, Bo Carroll and Robert Gillespie and Ts Kenyatta Walker and Mike Pearson don't make Spurrier crease the bill of his visor. You may even see Spurrier smile if you mention a toothy defense that features eight returning starters. E Alex Brown is the star, and the linebacking corps may be the school's best ever. It'll have to be with trips to Tennessee and Florida State on tap.

James Jackson, Miami

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

9. USC

Conquest? That's not what comes to mind when reviewing Paul Hackett's 14-11 record in two seasons. Before Hackett gets defensive, he should know things should get better in 2000 because of his defense. LBs Markus Steele and Zeke Moreno are the leaders of an attacking and aggressive unit. Es Sultan Abdul-Malik and Matt Childers, along with Ts Ennis Davis and Ryan Nielsen, will make running tough. The problem for the Trojans in recent seasons has been offense, which is supposed to be Hackett's forte. The attack was hurt in '99 when QB Carson Palmer was lost for the season after three games with a broken collarbone. He's raring to go this season and has a big-play wideout in Kareem Kelly to throw to. But there's pressure on a veteran line and a committee of tailbacks to restore Student Body Right. Hackett also must fret about the special teams, which were inconsistent last year, and a schedule that opens with Penn State and Colorado. And trips to Arizona State and UCLA, as well as a visit from Notre Dame, won't be music to Hackett's ears.

10. Tennessee

The last time the Volunteers replaced a quarterback was 1998, when Tee Martin took over for Peyton Manning and led the team to a national title. Before you go shouting off the top of Rocky Top, we want to tell you that ain't gonna happen this year. But Tennessee has lots to like. It starts with an experienced receiving corps whose star is Cedrick Wilson. With RB Jamal Lewis one of three Vols (G Cosey Coleman and FS Deon Grant are the others) off to the NFL a year early, Travis Henry is poised to show he's worth a grand—and then some. But Henry and his bevy of ballcarrying buddies will work behind a line that's breaking in four new starters. Joey Mathews is the man at quarterback—for now. Don't count out Casey Clausen, a hotshot who graduated from high school early and competed in spring ball. The secondary will be equally inexperienced. At least the Vols can count on their front seven being anchored by stars in E Will Overstreet and LB Eric Westmoreland. Florida, Alabama and Arkansas come to the Big Orange Nation, but the Vols must go to Georgia.

Alex Brown, Florida

SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN

11. Georgia

Forgive us, Jim Donnan, but we have to shed light on a fact: 1-7. That's your aggregate record against Tennessee (0-4) and Florida (1-3). That's a record only Uga could love. Georgia, which has 19 of 24 starters back, hasn't beaten the Vols since 1988 and has topped the Gators just once since beating them in 1989. With QB Quincy Carter back, the Bulldogs are equipped to erase their dark past. Carter will have ample protection, a terrific receiving corps paced by Terrence Edwards and the killer tight end duo of Jevaris Johnson and Randy McMichael. But a breakaway threat at running back is needed. The defense has its skeletons in the closet: 382 yards per game, 12th in the SEC. Donnan tabbed former Oklahoma coach Gary Gibbs to pretty-up the defense. Gibbs will have lots of veteran talent to work with. The 'Dogs play Tennesee at home. That's good. But trips to Arkansas and Jacksonville for the Florida game could get as ugly as Uga.

12. Michigan

Finally, the wrapping paper will be taken off QB Drew Henson, who leads the nation in hype. He's picking a good time to take over with four starting linemen back, along with workhorse RB Anthony Thomas and WRs David Terrell and Marquise Walker. That should be enough to keep Henson, a bonus-baby New York Yankees prospect, focused on football. The defense needs him to be a boy wonder given the rebuilding that's going on. The departures of LBs Ian Gold and Dhani Jones have created a big void. And three starting linemen are gone, too. At least the secondary has experience in Ss Cato June and DeWayne Patmon and CBs James Whitley and Todd Howard. The kicking game also will be strong with Hayden Epstein, who figures to punt and kick. Henson can build his press-clipping file by engineering home wins over Wisconsin, Michigan State and Penn State. He'll become a real legend if he's victorious at UCLA, Illinois, Purdue and Ohio State.

13. Virginia Tech

Along with Ann Arbor, South Bend and Knoxville, Blacksburg is now a port of call on the college football map. Tech can thank QB Michael Vick for that. His wondrous playmaking skills will be augmented by a veteran line that boasts four returning starters headed by T Dave Kadela and G Matt Lehr. If that isn't enough, Vick will throw lasers to a strong receiving corps paced by Andre Davis. But Tech needs a running back to develop. Before Vick, Tech was an outpost for old-school football freaks who loved special teams and defense, but those units must be rehabbed. The defense lost eight starters—including the entire line that was led by E Corey Moore. And K Shayne Graham and P Jimmy Kibble have taken their feet and fled. The schedule doesn't offer any breaks, either, with trips to Syracuse, Miami (Fla.) and Boston College. The Hokies better take flight quickly since their first three games will be played in a 12-day span.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Anthony Thomas, Michigan

14. Purdue

For a team coming off its first New Year's Day bowl since the 1966 season, the Boilermakers feel like they have a hangover. Purdue hopes its Drew Brees-led offense will be the elixir to a 7-5 season that could have been so much better. A veteran line will make Brees feel good, as will a running back corps that features shifty Montrell Lowe and surprising Steve Ennis. Purdue loses WRs Chris Daniels and Randall Lane, but look for guys such as WRs Keith Dawson and A.T. Simpson to catch on as WR Vinny Sutherland's and TE Tim Stratton's pass-catching buddies. An H-back and two-back package could stop the Boilers from seeing red in the red zone. Still, a defense that lost six starters will determine success. And K Travis Dorsch, who also may punt, needs to snap out of it. The schedule remains 100 proof, with trips to Notre Dame, Penn State, Wisconsin and Michigan State. At least Ohio State and Michigan visit.

15. Ohio State

A 6-6 campaign, which saw the Buckeyes miss the postseason for the first time since John Cooper's inaugural campaign in 1988, has folks grumbling along the Olentangy River. The root of the problem was an anemic offense. QB Steve Bellisari struggled, but Cooper remained loyal. The junior has to use his arm more than his feet so he can take advantage of sleek WRs Reggie Germany and Ken-Yon Rambo. The line needs to get tough and create running room for RB Michael Wiley's replacement, which figures to be burly Jonathan Wells or Derek Combs. While the secondary must be retooled, the defense can count on a strong front seven. The line, headlined by Ts Mike Collins and Ryan Pickett, will be the bellwether. It's vital a playmaker emerge since LB Na'il Diggs maintained an Ohio State tradition by bolting early to play on Sundays. K Dan Stultz is a steady force. A trip to Arizona will be an early test, but the Buckeyes are more worried about flunking out at Wisconsin, Purdue and Illinois.

16. Washington

It's almost as hard to say "Marques Tuiasosopo" (Mar-CUS TOO-ee-ah-so-SO-po) as it is to stop the Huskies' senior quarterback. He was at his best against Stanford last year when he became the first Division I quarterback to pass for 300 yards and rush for 200 in the same game. Tuiasosopo will be even more effective if a playmaker develops at receiver. That would allow RB Paul Arnold, who will work behind a line that returns four starters, to better use his speed. The defense needs to generate a better rush if Washington hopes to regain the glory days of its gold helmets. At least the secondary is in good shape with FS Hakim Akbar and CB Anthony Vontoure. If this unit can keep things close, the Huskies can count on K John Anderson nailing a kick to win a game. Non-league games vs. Miami (Fla.) and Colorado will serve as benchmarks, as will trips to Oregon and Arizona State. At least USC isn't on the menu.

17. Oklahoma

Oklahoma is back—sooner than expected. Give credit to coach Bob Stoops. X-ing and O-ing on defense is his bailiwick, but his spread attack is what has the Sooners booming. QB Josh Heupel is back to hook up with WR Antwone Savage, but Heupel won't have coordinator Mike Leach whispering in his ear. Leach left to take the head coaching spot at Texas Tech. Mark Mangino is now pushing the buttons. He wants the Sooners to rely less on finesse. That's RB Quenton Griffin's cue. He has promise, but the line is getting reworked. The defense, which won't gamble as much, can count on the linebacking duo of Rocky Calmus and Torrance Marshall, but there's much work to be done in the secondary (which is replacing three starters) and along the line (which is searching for a pass rusher). The Sooners will get a boost from a soft non-league schedule. And while OU doesn't leave the state until October 7, it plays three of its last four on the road.

18. TCU

Rankings were commonplace in the days when Davey O'Brien and Sammy Baugh walked the campus. That was the 1930s. The current edition of the Horned Frogs is doing its part to resurrect the school's proud past. Dennis Franchione is the best coach you've never heard of. He has led TCU to consecutive bowl wins his first two years in Fort Worth. The offense will be super-charged with 10 starters back, including RB LaDainian Tomlinson, who led the nation in rushing last year. A boffo line will offer Brinks-style protection. The defense is fortified with eight returning starters. E Aaron Schobel plays like his hair is on fire. And the secondary—headed by FS Curtis Fuller—may be the best in the Metroplex. The only worries are finding a punter and depth at defensive tackle. Franchione will sleep well knowing his toughest road game is across town at SMU.

19. Mississippi

When QB Romaro Miller walks through the grove on the way to home games this fall, forgive him if he smiles. Miller, a senior, will be serious about playing that afternoon, but he will be hard-pressed to contain his happiness about the array of talent in his backfield. First, there's RB Deuce McAllister, a do-it-all-type who even runs back kicks. Then, there's RB Joe Gunn, who would be a bigger shot if he didn't have to play in McAllister's shadow. Finally, there's FB Charles Stackhouse, who hits like a ton of bricks. All that running talent, which will be augumented by three returning line starters, should open lanes for a passing game that's looking for playmakers. With the offense in tune and star Les Binkley back to get his kicks, the defense has issues. The secondary must be retooled and the line lacks experience. If the unit can avoid breaking, everyone in Oxford will be smiling with seven home games on the schedule.

20. UCLA

The Bruins heard the snickers about their defense that ranked 107th in the nation last year. But there's lots of talent that figures to mature in 2000. While everyone knows E Kenyon Coleman is the star, look for T Ken Kocher and LBs Ryan Nece and Robert Thomas to emerge in what is a strong front seven. The biggest area of concern is depth in the secondary. On offense, Cory Paus or Ryan McCann needs to take charge at quarterback. Whoever wins the job will hand off to a bevy of good running backs headlined by DeShaun Foster. Brian Poli-Dixon is a rangy wideout, and Freddie Mitchell is a speedy one. And don't forget about Bryan Fletcher and Gabe Crecion, who form a good tight end tandem. The key to not becoming a joke will be for a thin line to stay healthy. And the schedule is no laughing matter with Alabama and Michigan visiting along with trips to Oregon and Washington.

Freddie Mitchell, UCLA

JASON WISE FOR TSN

21. Texas A&M

Defense—what else?—will be the Aggies' trademark. The Wrecking Crew is paced by LBs Cornelius Anthony, Jason Glenn and Roylin Bradley. The line also will be tough with Es Rocky Bernard and Ronald Flemons and NT Ron Edwards. It's a good thing the front seven will be stout considering the secondary is being reworked. Conservative—what else?—best describes the A&M offense. With QB Randy McCown gone, the Aggies will look to Mark Farris or Colby Freeman to run the attack. Whoever plays at quarterback will have good targets in Bethel Johnson and Chris Taylor, but most of the time the quarterback will be instructed to frequently hand off to beefy FB Ja'Mar Toombs, who will run behind a rebuilding line. There won't be much to yell or hump about without a good start, which includes a season-opener at Notre Dame, because four of the last six games are away from Aggieville.

22. Notre Dame

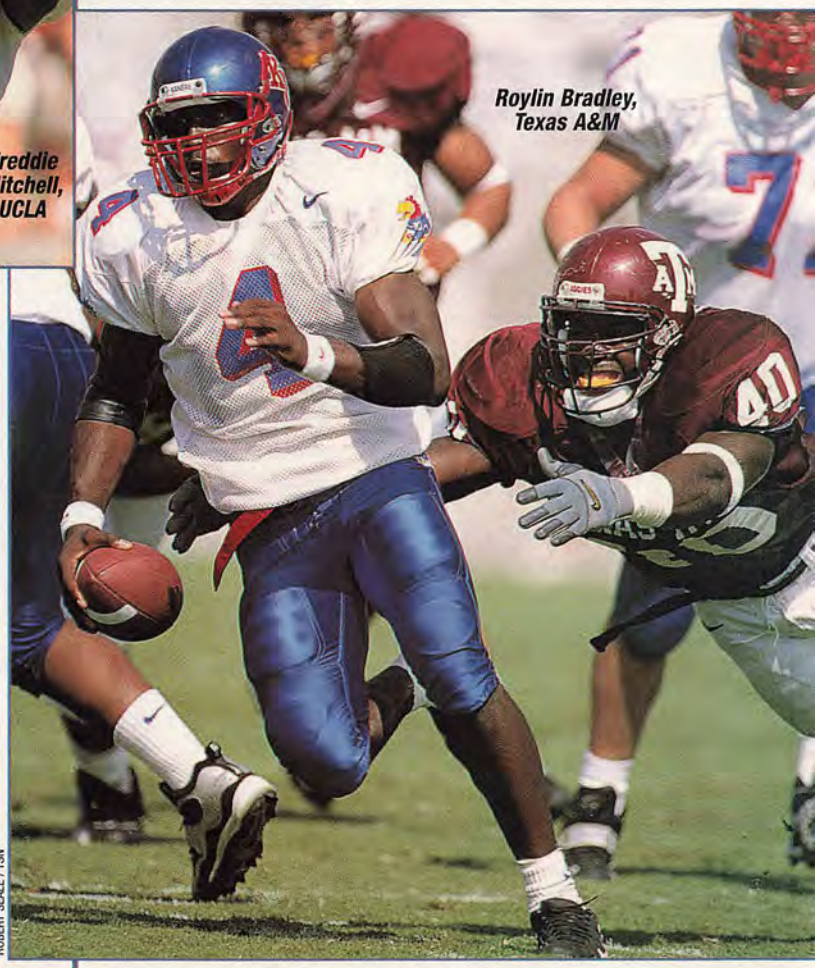
Irish eyes will be on Bob Davie in what figures to be a win-big-or-else season. He has failed to get it right his first three campaigns. And someone up there must not like him when you look at a schedule that opens with Texas A&M, Nebraska, Purdue, Michigan State and Stanford. At least Davie will have a strong defense in his corner. The line should be especially strong with the likes of E Grant Irons and Ts Lance Legree and Anthony Weaver. And the secondary will get a boost from FS Tony Driver (a running back last year) and CB Brock Williams (who sat out 1999). The offense is the key. QB Arnaz Battle makes his debut, but can he pass? If so, he has lots of good-looking targets. We're sure Battle knows how to hand off to stud RB Julius Jones, who will operate behind a matured line. And this is no season for the Irish to continue their annual rite of searching for a kicker. Does someone have Barry Alvarez's number?

23. Clemson

This isn't how Danny Ford would have done things, but Tommy Bowden doesn't care. It has taken the pass-happy coach just one year to resuscitate Death Valley, which had been accustomed to a grind-it-out style that failed to produce an ACC title since 1991. QB Woodrow Dantzler is back to lead the attack. He's a terrific runner who needs to refine his passing. The junior will have a good target in Rod Gardner, and look for redshirt freshman Kevin Youngblood to emerge for a deep corps. Travis Zachery will provide a running threat, but the line lacks depth and size. And a kicking game must be developed. The defense, which has eight starters back from a unit that ranked third in the ACC, is paced by fireplug LB Keith Adams and FS Robert Carswell. Clemson's rebuilding will be aided by seven home games. The schedule, which features trips to Florida State and Virginia, can't be tougher than last year, when the Tigers were the only team to play the nation's three Division I-A regular-season unbeaten teams.

24. Michigan State

If momentum counts, Michigan State is on a roll. The Spartans closed the season with four consecutive victories, including a 37-34 Citrus Bowl triumph over Florida. That was the debut of coach Bobby Williams, who was promoted after Nick Saban bolted for LSU and retained the Spartan staff. Much has been made of the fact Michigan State must replace WRs Plaxico Burress and Gari Scott, but don't forget about focusing on the return of TB T.J. Duckett, who's the best big back in the nation. Making him more deadly is the fact he'll run behind a line that returns three starters. And blue-chipper Ryan Van Dyke finally takes over at quarterback after waiting in the wings the last two seasons. Big things are expected of him. He'll have safety nets in Chris Baker and Ivory McCoy, who form one of the best tight end combinations in the nation. The key for the defense will be developing a strong rush in the absence of Julian Peterson and Robaire Smith to take heat off a secondary that's retooling. At least T.J. Turner and Josh Thornhill are back to anchor a strong linebacking corps. Big-time success will be dictated by trips to Michigan, Ohio State and Penn State.



Roylin Bradley, Texas A&M

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

25. Southern Miss

Fact: Southern Miss has the second-best conference record (21-2 in Conference USA; Florida State is 31-1) in the nation among I-A teams the past four seasons. But this edition of the Golden Eagles won't rest on its laurels with eight starters back on offense and seven on defense. While the offense searches for wideouts for what figures to be a more wide-open attack, look for QB Jeff Kelly to hand off frequently to RB Derrick Nix, a load who will have four veteran blockers in front of him. While the offense develops, the Golden Eagles can count on their always-tough defense to hold the line. The star this year is E Cedric Scott. LB Roy Magee and SS Leo Barnes also are playmakers. As usual, Southern Miss will push its limits with a schedule that opens with trips to Tennessee, Alabama and Oklahoma State. The other eight games for coach Jeff Bower, however, are very winnable for what is the best program you've never heard about.

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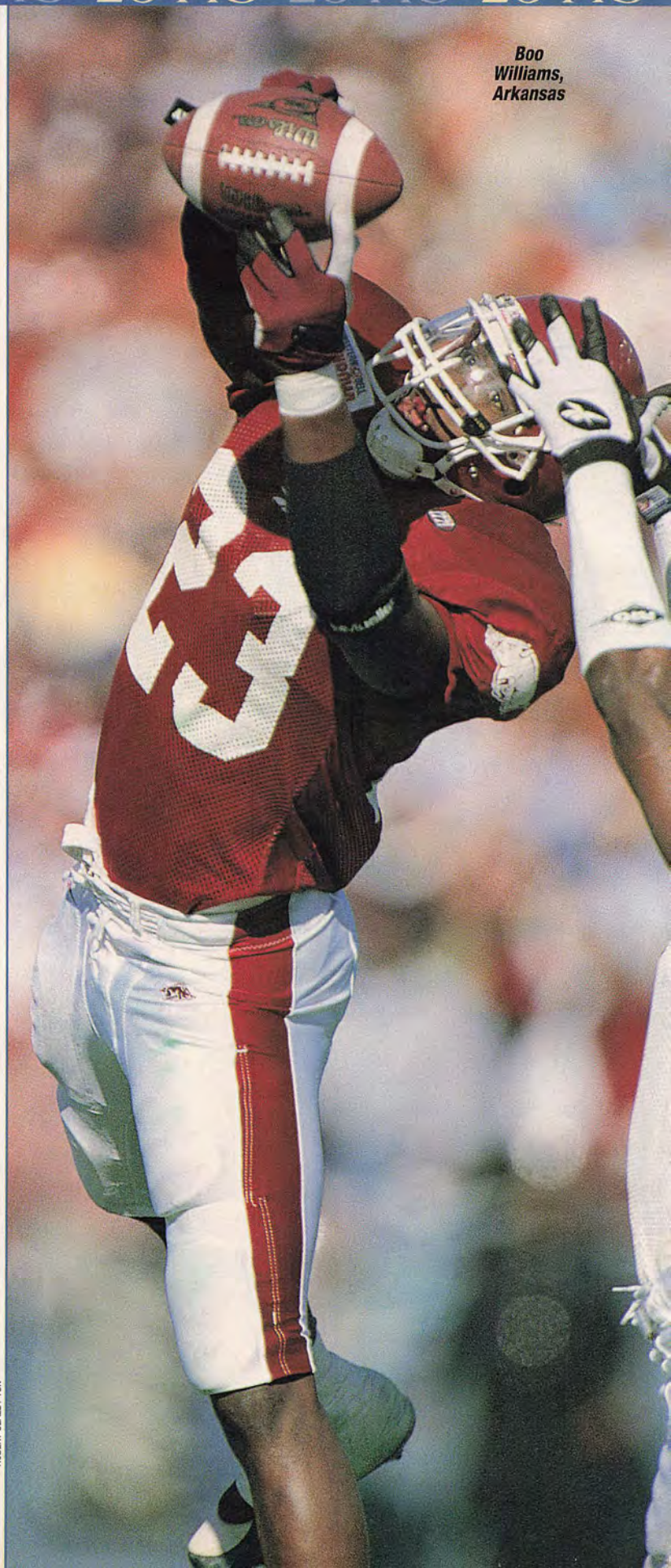
Tom Dienhart is a staff writer for THE SPORTING NEWS. *He writes a weekly college football column.*



Boo Williams, Arkansas

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

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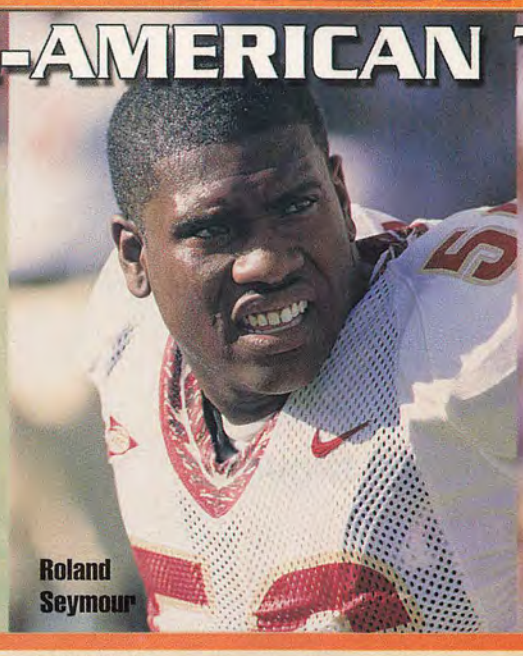
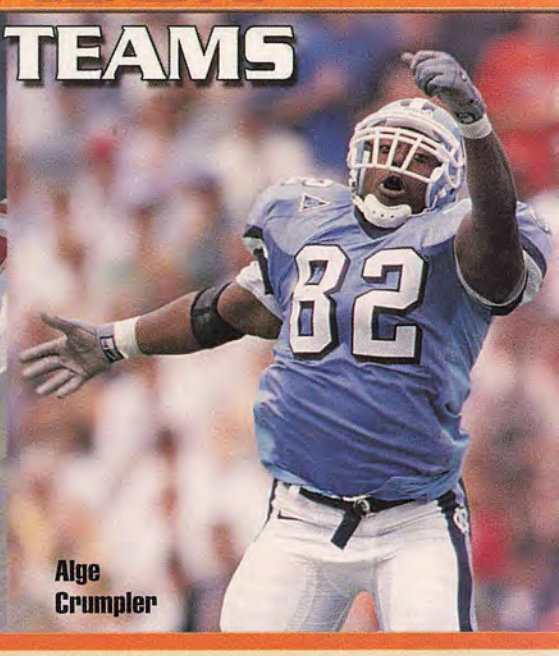

Roland Seymour


Alge Crumpler

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

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FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Class	School
WR	Freddie Milons	5-11	183	Jr.	Alabama
WR	Santana Moss	5-10	175	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)
TE	Alge Crumpler	6-3	255	Sr.	N. Carolina
T	Jeff Backus	6-6	298	Sr.	Michigan
T	Leonard Davis	6-6	367	Sr.	Texas
G	Steve Hutchinson	6-5	298	Sr.	Michigan
G	Russ Hochstein	6-4	290	Sr.	Nebraska
C	Paul Hogan	6-4	275	Sr.	Alabama
QB	Michael Vick	6-1	212	So.	Virginia Tech
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson	5-11	217	Sr.	TCU
RB	LaMont Jordan	5-11	219	Sr.	Maryland
K	Jamie Rheem	6-2	190	Sr.	Kansas State

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Class	School
E	Alex Brown	6-4	265	Jr.	Florida
E	Roland Seymour	6-4	264	Sr.	Florida State
T	Casey Hampton	6-1	305	Sr.	Texas
OLB	Saleem Rasheed	6-3	220	So.	Alabama
ILB	Carlos Polk	6-2	250	Sr.	Nebraska
ILB	Jamie Winborn	6-0	232	Jr.	Vanderbilt
OLB	Keith Adams	5-11	220	Jr.	Clemson
CB	Jamar Fletcher	5-10	170	Jr.	Wisconsin
CB	Fred Smoot	6-1	173	Sr.	Mississippi St.
SS	Jarrod Cooper	6-1	210	Sr.	Kansas State
FS	Robert Carswell	6-0	215	Sr.	Clemson
P	Nick Harris	6-3	220	Sr.	California
KR	David Allen	5-9	200	Sr.	Kansas State

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Class	School
WR	David Terrell	6-3	208	Jr.	Michigan
WR	Quincy Morgan	6-2	215	Sr.	Kansas State
TE	Todd Heap	6-5	232	Jr.	Arizona State
T	Chad Ward	6-5	330	Sr.	Washington
T	Dave Kadela	6-6	290	Sr.	Virginia Tech
G	Bill Ferrario	6-3	302	Sr.	Wisconsin
G	Brian Polak	6-4	330	Sr.	UCLA
C	Ben Hamilton	6-5	271	Sr.	Minnesota
QB	Drew Brees	6-1	220	Sr.	Purdue
RB	Deuce McAllister	6-1	220	Sr.	Mississippi
RB	Anthony Thomas	6-2	225	Sr.	Michigan
K	Jeff Chandler	6-2	217	Sr.	Florida

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Class	School
E	Justin Smith	6-5	265	Jr.	Missouri
E	Kenyon Coleman	6-6	278	Sr.	UCLA
T	Wendell Bryant	6-4	298	Jr.	Wisconsin
OLB	Roylin Bradley	6-1	230	Sr.	Texas A&M
ILB	Jashon Sykes	6-3	230	Jr.	Colorado
ILB	Zeke Moreno	6-3	240	Sr.	USC
OLB	Eric Westmoreland	6-0	230	Sr.	Tennessee
CB	Tay Cody	5-11	180	Sr.	Florida State
CB	Will Allen	5-11	182	Sr.	Syracuse
SS	Hakim Akbar	6-1	195	Jr.	Washington
FS	Tony Driver	6-1	221	Sr.	Notre Dame
P	David Leaverton	6-4	210	Sr.	Tennessee
KR	Steve Smith	5-10	177	Sr.	Utah

Kittner is passing Illinois into prominence

By Mark Tupper

They no longer wonder about the strength of his arm, his uncanny vision or his accuracy. His coaches and teammates have long since decided Illinois quarterback Kurt Kittner has a firm grasp on those skills. But in the wake of Kittner's breakthrough 1999 season, those who know him best were curious about just one thing: What kind of attitude and motivation for improvement would he bring in search of an encore?

The answers to those questions began emerging almost immediately after Kittner wrapped up a 24-touchdown, five-interception season and a 63-21 victory over Virginia in the Micronpc.com Bowl. It was quite a turnaround for Kittner, who had tossed just one touchdown pass and seven interceptions in 1998.

Kittner, a 6-3, 205-pound junior from Schaumburg, Ill., dramatically raised the bar for himself and Illinois last fall by putting pop back in a program that had produced just five victories in the three previous seasons. With Kittner guiding the highest-scoring offense (388 points) in school annals, throwing for 2,702 yards and breaking Jeff George's single-season, touchdown-pass record, Illinois boasted an 8-4 record that included road victories over Michigan and Ohio State. His career-high 323 yards passing against Michigan State marked the first time an Illini quarterback had eclipsed the 300-yard barrier since 1991. Still, Kittner knows he can improve, and his biggest fan—and toughest critic—is coach Ron Turner, a noted offensive innovator.

"He is becoming more of a leader," Turner says. "Guys are looking up to him. The good thing is he is working every bit as hard or harder than he did last year. He's studying film, he's working in the weight room, he's throwing and doing all the things he has to do.

"Coming off the year he had, that was the one thing we were looking to see: What kind of work ethic would he bring to it? He has kept it up, or maybe even brought a little more. He definitely believes he can play a lot better, as I do."

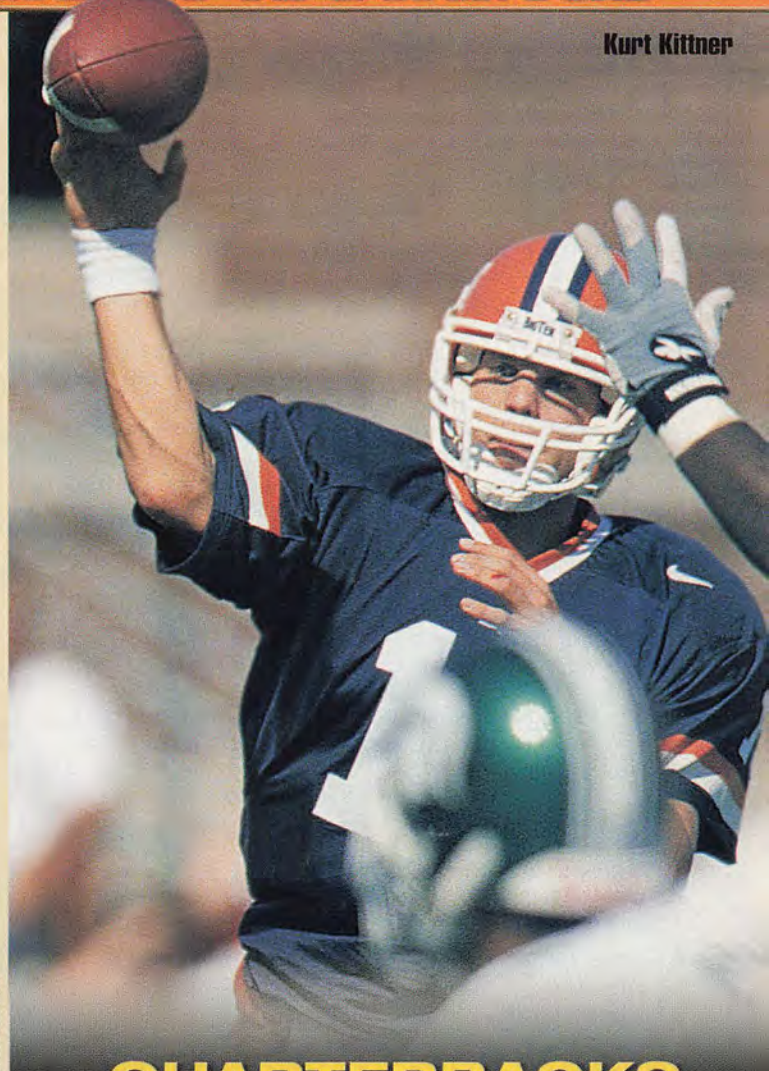
When Turner mentions improvement, he's not talking about stats.

"I've made that perfectly clear to Kurt," he says. "I'm not talking touchdown-to-interception ratio. What I want him to do is perform better, make reads more consistently, throw more consistently, move out of the pocket better. Those are all things he did real well, but he can do them better."

Kittner is taking nothing for granted, including his job as the starter. "We've got other good quarterbacks on this team, so I figure it's not my job until I win it," he says. "I have to go back out there and secure it. We're pretty much aiming for a bigger and better season. We won't be satisfied with another 7-4 or 8-4 season. We expect to do better."

TSN

Mark Tupper is executive sports editor of the Decatur (Ill.) Herald & Review.



Kurt Kittner

PAUL NISSEY / TSN

QUARTERBACKS

1. Michael Vick	6-1	212	So.	Virginia Tech
2. Drew Brees	6-1	220	Sr.	Purdue
3. Quincy Carter	6-3	223	Jr.	Georgia
4. Eric Crouch	6-1	195	Jr.	Nebraska
5. Chris Weinke	6-5	240	Sr.	Florida State
6. Josh Heupel	6-2	210	Sr.	Oklahoma
7. Kurt Kittner	6-3	205	Jr.	Illinois
8. Marques Tuiasosopo	6-2	215	Sr.	Washington
9. Major Applewhite	6-1	205	Jr.	Texas
10. Antwaan Randle El	5-10	191	Jr.	Indiana
11. Romaro Miller	6-1	195	Sr.	Mississippi
12. David Garrard	6-3	235	Jr.	East Carolina
13. Bart Hendricks	6-0	205	Sr.	Boise State
14. Dusty Bonner	6-2	217	Jr.	Kentucky
15. Tim Hasselbeck	6-2	212	Sr.	Boston College
16. Carson Palmer	6-5	220	Jr.	USC
17. Mike McMahon	6-3	215	Sr.	Rutgers
18. Brooks Bollinger	6-2	207	So.	Wisconsin
19. David Neill	6-5	200	Jr.	Nevada
20. Walter Church	6-4	225	Sr.	Eastern Michigan
21. Deontey Kenner	6-2	204	Sr.	Cincinnati
22. Jesse Palmer	6-2	225	Sr.	Florida
23. Andrew Zow	6-2	217	Jr.	Alabama
24. Ben Leard	6-4	225	Sr.	Auburn
25. Dylen Smith	6-1	190	Jr.	Kansas

Florida State's Minor plays a major role

By Michael Bradley

Travis Minor knows well the rules for offensive stardom at Florida State. You want to be The Man? Get in line. That's how it is in Tallahassee, where enough big-time talent has flowed through the Seminoles program that it's a wonder the NFL hasn't asked the school to become an expansion franchise. Great quarterbacks. Star wideouts. Big-time running backs. All-American linemen. Players with egos that need room to spread out had better go elsewhere.

"Coach (Bobby) Bowden talks all the time about playing a role," says Minor, a 6-1, 190-pound tailback. "You've got to play your role. That's not for everybody, but when you're winning, it's easy to do."

Minor knows all about fitting in to a specific job description. Were he at another school, he'd be carrying the ball 25 times a game, piling up four-figure yardage totals and earning All-American honors. Guaranteed. At FSU, he gets to run it, but not nearly as often as he might at a school that doesn't throw so much. He has to catch the ball. And he has to block.

"I know I'm durable enough to carry it 25 times a game, but the nature of our offense doesn't call for me to do that," he says. "We have a lot of big-play guys, and that means we have a bunch of five- or six-play drives. When you come out of high school and you're The Man, you expect to get the ball. You have to get used to (not getting it)."

Minor isn't an afterthought at Florida State. Far from it. He's a dynamic back who can run outside and hit it up between the tackles. Unlike former 'Noles star Warrick Dunn, who also went to Baton Rouge (La.) Catholic High and with whom Minor often is compared, Minor, a senior, is more physical and capable of handling the rough stuff inside.

"He breaks a lot of tackles," FSU running backs coach Billy Sexton says. "He's an excellent short-yardage and goal-line runner."

Throughout his FSU career, Minor has gained 2,295 yards, including 815 last year when he was hampered by injuries. He ranks fifth on FSU's all-time rushing list, but the number he has focused on more than any personal statistic is one—the number of national titles Florida State has won while he has been in Tallahassee. Minor hopes to be part of the group that leads the Seminoles to the top again after the school won its second crown in 1999.

"Last year's seniors did it; can we?" Minor says. "The challenge is always there. We won a championship last year, but now can we lead a group of young guys to the title?"

That sounds like a role Minor would love to play. **TSN**

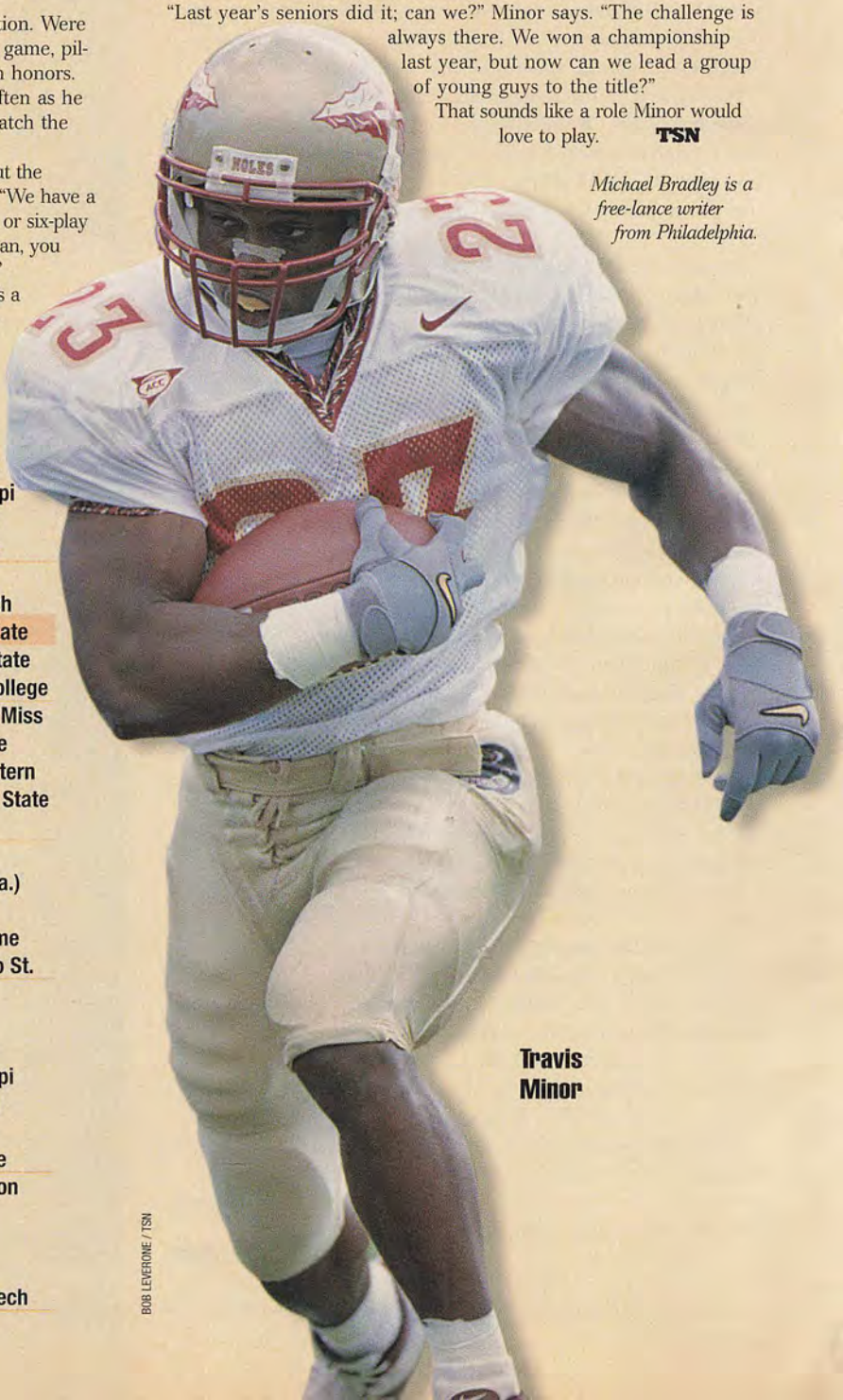
Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer from Philadelphia.

RUNNING BACKS

1. LaDainian Tomlinson	5-11	217	Sr.	TCU
2. LaMont Jordan	5-11	219	Sr.	Maryland
3. Deuce McAllister	6-1	220	Sr.	Mississippi
4. Anthony Thomas	6-2	225	Sr.	Michigan
5. Cedric Cobbs	6-2	220	So.	Arkansas
6. Hodges Mitchell	5-7	190	Sr.	Texas
7. Ricky Williams	5-9	190	Sr.	Texas Tech
8. Travis Minor	6-1	190	Sr.	Florida State
9. Ken Simonton	5-7	175	Jr.	Oregon State
10. Cedric Washington	6-0	195	Sr.	Boston College
11. Derrick Nix	6-1	223	Jr.	Southern Miss
12. Travis Henry	5-11	220	Sr.	Tennessee
13. Damien Anderson	5-11	208	Jr.	Northwestern
14. T.J. Duckett	6-2	255	So.	Michigan State
15. Earnest Graham	5-9	214	So.	Florida
16. DeShaun Foster	6-1	210	Jr.	UCLA
17. James Jackson	5-11	210	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)
18. Shaun Bohanon	6-2	215	Sr.	Alabama
19. Julius Jones	5-10	201	So.	Notre Dame
20. Larry Ned	5-11	215	Sr.	San Diego St.

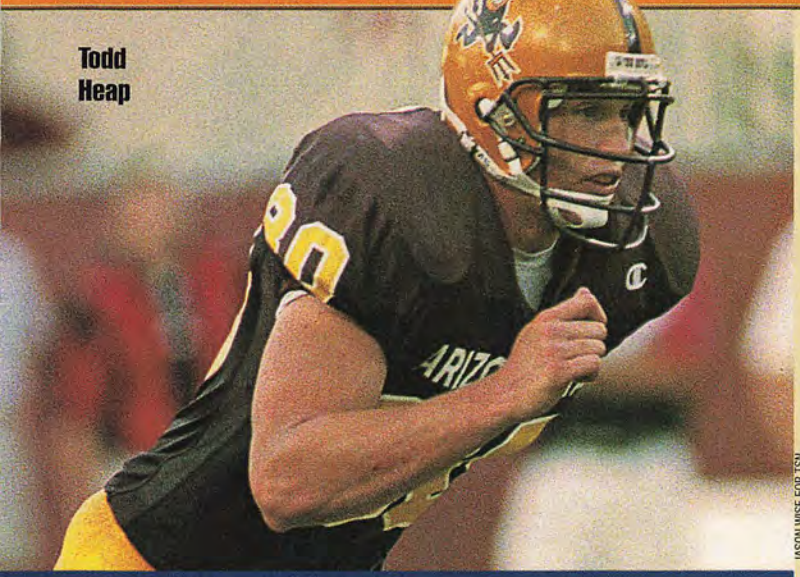
FULLBACKS

1. Kyle Johnson	6-1	241	Sr.	Syracuse
2. Charles Stackhouse	6-2	221	Jr.	Mississippi
3. Matt Kalapinski	6-1	224	Sr.	Maryland
4. Dustin McClintock	6-3	271	Sr.	Alabama
5. Will Bartholomew	6-0	232	Jr.	Tennessee
6. Pat Conniff	6-1	235	Sr.	Washington
7. Heath Evans	6-0	228	Jr.	Auburn
8. Moran Norris	6-2	245	Sr.	Kansas
9. Raheem Lambert	5-10	207	Jr.	Navy
10. Jarrett Ferguson	5-9	219	Jr.	Virginia Tech



Travis Minor

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Todd Heap

JASON WISE FOR TSN

Heap is becoming a hotshot tight end

By Bob Moran

As if his rapid development wasn't already giving opponents something to worry about, Arizona State tight end Todd Heap enters his junior season in a better frame of mind than he was in last year.

That's because Heap was allowed to play basketball for the Sun Devils. Heap desperately wanted to play following a 1998 football season in which he snagged 12 passes for 209 yards and four touchdowns and earned third-team freshman All-American honors from TSN, but coach Bruce Snyder preferred that he focus on football. Snyder likes to hold off on two-sport situations until his players have been on campus a year.

The thing was, Heap didn't want to play basketball just to kill time. It's a big part of his athletic existence. "It's hard for him to just play football," Heap's grandfather, Theo, says. "He's played since he was a little kid."

Heap, whose great-uncle Verl was a star shooting forward for Arizona State and is in the school's sports Hall of Fame, started showing up for basketball practice after his freshman season, but "I couldn't stand to watch a game," he says. His desire to play basketball was no less after a sophomore football season in which he nabbed 55 passes for 832 yards and three touchdowns, became the first tight end to lead Arizona State in receiving in 11 years and was named first-team All-Pac-10. He played in 11 games, averaging 5.7 minutes with14 rebounds and two points.

"It keeps me in shape and makes me more athletic," says Heap, nicknamed "Golden Retriever" by Snyder because of his blond hair and pass-catching ability. "I'm running and jumping all the time. It keeps me quick. It'll help my hands because I'm working them catching the ball."

Heap, a 6-5, 232-pounder, molds himself after Kansas City Chiefs tight end Tony Gonzalez, who played football and basketball at Cal and is known more for his receiving skills than his blocking. Heap has the versatility to run deep, short and intermediate routes, and can catch the ball in traffic. Because he can run after the catch, he can be used on screens.

Heap says he hasn't let his 1999 breakthrough season go to his head. "I'm going into the season like any other year," he says. "It's nice to have the recognition. But it doesn't mean much. You still have to work hard. It's still a team game and you have to put the team first." **TSN**

Bob Moran covers Arizona State for the Mesa (Ariz.) Tribune.

RECEIVERS

1. Freddie Milons	5-11	183	Jr.	Alabama
2. Santana Moss	5-10	175	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)
3. David Terrell	6-3	208	Jr.	Michigan
4. Quincy Morgan	6-2	215	Sr.	Kansas State
5. Kareem Kelly	6-1	185	So.	USC
6. Latef Grim	6-0	185	Sr.	Pittsburgh
7. Ronney Daniels	6-1	204	So.	Auburn
8. Andre Davis	6-1	200	Jr.	Virginia Tech
9. Terrence Edwards	6-2	175	So.	Georgia
10. Cedrick Wilson	5-10	175	Sr.	Tennessee
11. Ken-Yon Rambo	6-1	190	Sr.	Ohio State
12. Javon Green	6-2	195	Sr.	Colorado
13. Rod Gardner	6-4	215	Sr.	Clemson
14. Freddie Mitchell	6-0	183	Jr.	UCLA
15. Brian Poli-Dixon	6-5	211	Jr.	UCLA
16. Steve Smith	5-10	177	Sr.	Utah
17. Kelly Campbell	5-11	170	Jr.	Georgia Tech
18. DeRonnie Pitts	5-11	195	Sr.	Stanford
19. Margin Hooks	6-0	185	Sr.	BYU
20. Kendall Newson	6-2	185	Jr.	Middle Tennessee St.
21. Antonio Bryant	6-2	180	So.	Pittsburgh
22. Vinny Sutherland	5-9	191	Sr.	Purdue
23. Chris Chambers	6-1	206	Sr.	Wisconsin
24. Steve Neal	6-0	187	Sr.	Western Michigan
25. Arnold Jackson	5-8	160	Sr.	Louisville

TIGHT ENDS

1. Alge Crumpler	6-3	255	Sr.	North Carolina
2. Todd Heap	6-5	232	Jr.	Arizona State
3. Jabari Holloway	6-3	260	Sr.	Notre Dame
4. Tim Stratton	6-4	252	Jr.	Purdue
5. Brian Natkin	6-3	245	Sr.	UTEP
6. Tracey Wistrom	6-5	220	Jr.	Nebraska
7. Randy McMichael	6-3	223	So.	Georgia
8. Jerramy Stevens	6-7	220	So.	Washington
9. Chris Baker	6-3	255	Jr.	Michigan State
10. Shawn Thompson	6-4	255	Jr.	Michigan
11. Elliott Carson	6-5	250	Sr.	Vanderbilt
12. Jevaris Johnson	6-6	258	Sr.	Georgia
13. Daniel Graham	6-3	235	Jr.	Colorado
14. Antoine Harris	6-4	245	Sr.	USC
15. Trent Smith	6-5	222	So.	Oklahoma
16. Bo Scaife	6-3	240	So.	Texas
17. Billy Baber	6-4	255	Sr.	Virginia
18. Brandon Manumaleuna	6-2	288	Sr.	Arizona
19. L.J. Smith	6-4	225	Jr.	Rutgers
20. Robert Williams	6-4	240	Jr.	Miami (Fla.)
21. Gray McNeill	6-2	250	Sr.	San Diego State
22. Marcellus Rivers	6-4	225	Sr.	Oklahoma State
23. Tevita Ofahengaue	6-3	250	Sr.	BYU
24. Kirk Wells	6-4	208	So.	Florida
25. Tony Stewart	6-5	272	Sr.	Penn State

Backus is the right fit at left tackle

By Rich Thomaselli

For Michigan senior Jeff Backus, playing left tackle is like coming home at night and curling up in a favorite recliner. It just feels right.

"To be honest, I don't know what it's like to play anything else," says Backus, who has started 37 consecutive times at what is considered the most important spot on the offensive line. "I suppose it isn't much different than playing the right tackle, just that everything is opposite on the other side. I've just never done it."

And the Michigan coaches, famous for position switches, don't have any intention of moving him. Backus, a 6-6, 298-pound native of Norcross, Ga., is the anchor of what should be one of the best lines in the country. The Wolverines return four starters, including stud guard Steve Hutchinson, who plays next to Backus. The unit will be entrusted to block for Wunderkind quarterback Drew Henson as well as Anthony Thomas, the Big Ten's leading returning rusher, who rushed for 1,257 yards and 16 touchdowns last season.

But despite a 10-2 record that was highlighted by an Orange Bowl win over Alabama, the line was a disappointment last year. Penalties plagued the group, and Michigan rushed for only 129.5 yards a game (79th in the nation), the Wolverines' lowest average since 1962. To be fair, Thomas was forced to carry a big load with Justin Fargas out all year with an injury. Furthermore, the line did a good job protecting statuesque quarterback Tom Brady. Still, Backus knows he and his teammates will have to step it up.

"I'm going into my fifth year, and I have a good understanding of what the coaches expect," he says. "They expect you to have a good understanding of what playing the position is all about."

Backus, who was barely strong enough to practice without getting hurt when he first came to Michigan and was further hampered by an appendectomy, credits his practice time and devotion to film study with helping him become a better blocker.

"For me, the biggest thing is to understand what we're doing, what my assignments are, and work on the little things," he says. "I'm a big believer in practicing. It's hard for me to play well without practicing. I like the repetition, I like seeing as many looks as possible and I like to get as much feel for my technique as possible."

Backus plays the position with one credo in mind.

"If you know your technique and you're already physical, that's all you need," he says. **TSN**

Rich Thomaselli covers Michigan for the Ann Arbor (Mich.) News.

Jeff Backus

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

CENTERS

1. Paul Hogan	6-4	275	Sr.	Alabama
2. Ben Hamilton	6-5	271	Sr.	Minnesota
3. Casey Rabach	6-5	286	Sr.	Wisconsin
4. Dominic Raiola	6-2	295	Jr.	Nebraska
5. Andre Gurode	6-4	305	Jr.	Colorado
6. Bruce Wiggins	6-3	280	Sr.	Arizona
7. Melvin Fowler	6-3	287	Jr.	Maryland
8. Scott Peters	6-3	312	Jr.	Arizona State
9. Zac Zedalis	6-2	280	Sr.	Florida
10. Ben Claxton	6-3	290	So.	Ole Miss
11. Seth McKinney	6-3	290	Jr.	Texas A&M
12. Rick Gilliam	6-6	325	Sr.	West Virginia
13. Justin Borvansky	6-1	290	Sr.	Colorado State
14. Doug Rosfeld	6-4	282	Sr.	Cincinnati
15. Jarad Moon	6-4	300	Sr.	Florida State
16. Sherwin Lacewell	6-2	290	Sr.	East Carolina
17. Eric Denmon	6-1	280	Sr.	USC
18. Chris Lorenti	6-5	320	Sr.	Central Florida
19. Chukky Okobi	6-1	324	Sr.	Purdue
20. Jeff McCurley	6-5	290	Sr.	Pittsburgh

GUARDS

1. Steve Hutchinson	6-5	298	Sr.	Michigan
2. Russ Hochstein	6-4	290	Sr.	Nebraska
3. Bill Ferrario	6-3	302	Sr.	Wisconsin
4. Brian Polak	6-4	330	Sr.	UCLA
5. Matt Lehr	6-2	285	Sr.	Virginia Tech
6. Fred Weary	6-4	301	Jr.	Tennessee
7. Will Cuthbert	6-5	329	Sr.	Alabama
8. Eric Heitmann	6-4	285	Jr.	Stanford
9. Antwan Kirk-Hughes	6-3	320	Jr.	Texas
10. Ray Redziniak	6-3	290	Sr.	Illinois
11. Steven Grace	6-3	286	Jr.	Arizona
12. Shaun Mason	6-5	295	Sr.	Michigan State
13. Keith DiDomenico	6-5	320	Sr.	Oregon State
14. Josh Lovelady	6-3	330	Sr.	Houston
15. David Hildebrand	6-3	290	Sr.	Air Force
16. Paul Zukauskas	6-6	318	Sr.	Boston College
17. Justin Amman	6-4	305	Sr.	Florida State
18. Brent Key	6-4	280	Sr.	Georgia Tech
19. Jordan Caruso	6-4	300	Sr.	Penn State
20. Dustin Plumadore	6-1	295	Jr.	Army

TACKLES

1. Leonard Davis	6-6	367	Sr.	Texas
2. Jeff Backus	6-6	298	Sr.	Michigan
3. Dave Kadela	6-6	290	Sr.	Virginia Tech
4. Chad Ward	6-5	330	Sr.	Washington
5. David Bobo	6-5	291	Sr.	TCU
6. Victor Leyva	6-4	303	Sr.	Arizona State
7. Kenyatta Walker	6-5	298	Jr.	Florida
8. Terrence Metcalf	6-3	300	Jr.	Mississippi
9. Kareem McKenzie	6-7	321	Sr.	Penn State
10. Brett Williams	6-6	320	So.	Florida State
11. Pork Chop Womack	6-3	336	Sr.	Mississippi St.
12. Brent McCaffrey	6-5	275	Sr.	USC
13. Mike Pearson	6-7	291	So.	Florida
14. Matt Light	6-5	296	Sr.	Purdue
15. Chris Brown	6-6	315	Sr.	Georgia Tech
16. Tarlos Thomas	6-5	310	Jr.	Florida State
17. Marques Sullivan	6-5	315	Sr.	Illinois
18. Lee Gundy	6-6	325	Sr.	Oregon
19. Rick DeMulling	6-5	305	Sr.	Idaho
20. Hoot Stahl	6-6	300	Sr.	Navy

When it comes to dirty work, Hampton cleans up

By Kirk Bohls

Among the best-kept secrets in college football is an obscure defensive lineman deep in the heart of Texas who has a pretty good secret of his own.

Casey Hampton, a 6-1, 305-pound Longhorn senior defensive tackle who can bench-press 600 pounds and squat Royal-Memorial Stadium, was once a high school running back.

"I was bruising," says Hampton of his days as a 215-pound freshman fullback at Ball High in Galveston, Texas. "I didn't put many moves on people, but I was bigger than all my offensive linemen. I used to get hit in the backfield and have to drag 'em five yards. I fussed at my linemen, though, and they wouldn't block for me."

Offensive linemen are still getting mad at Hampton—but for other reasons. Ever since he mushroomed from 228 to 285 pounds between his high school sophomore and junior seasons and switched to linebacker, Hampton has been a lineman's worst dream.

He committed to Missouri, received interest from Arkansas and was told by Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum that he probably wouldn't qualify for a Division I-A school because of his poor grades. Hampton subsequently received a passing score and, after visiting Texas on the last weekend of recruiting season, signed with the Longhorns.

Since his freshman season at Texas, Hampton has evolved into one of the nation's premier defensive linemen on a unit that has been transformed from one of college football's softest to one of its stoutest. In two years since the arrival of Mack Brown and defensive coordinator Carl Reese, the defense has improved from a national ranking of 85th in 1997 (399.2) to sixth (286.7) last year.

Hampton, who has been a vital cog in that upgrade, requires constant double-teaming. He and fellow tackle Shaun Rogers were lethal in helping Texas to a No. 17 ranking against the run (105.7) last season.

Now other offensive linemen are getting fussed at, often after failing to block Hampton, who became the first Longhorn defensive tackle to lead the team in tackles (101) in 13 seasons. Included in that total were 21 stops for loss, but he notched just three sacks, the one area the Outland Trophy semifinalist needs to improve.

"I get it done other kinds of ways," says Hampton, who has worked with a karate instructor to aid his pass-rushing technique. "I've only had six sacks in my career."

This run-stuffer could be in big demand after the 2000 season, assuming he bounces back after playing most of last season with a hernia that required surgery in January.

Hampton never told his coaches about the pain. That speaks volumes to his high pain threshold, hardly surprising for a guy who once played with a broken thumb in high school. In fact, he never has missed a practice.

"If I go to the NFL and make a lot of money, I'd come back and coach for free," he says. "I'd play anywhere. I'd play in Alaska. If they pay me, I'll be there.

"For now, I think our defense can be the best in the country if everybody does his thing. Me, I'm just doing the dirty work." TSN

Kirk Bohls is a columnist for the Austin (Texas) American Statesman.

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1. Alex Brown	6-4	265	Jr.	Florida
2. Roland Seymour	6-4	264	Sr.	Florida State
3. Justin Smith	6-5	265	Jr.	Missouri
4. Kenyon Coleman	6-6	278	Sr.	UCLA
5. Aaron Schobel	6-4	244	Sr.	TCU
6. Kyle Vanden Bosch	6-4	270	Sr.	Nebraska
7. Kindal Moorehead	6-3	293	Jr.	Alabama
8. Cedric Scott	6-5	255	Sr.	Southern Miss
9. Will Overstreet	6-4	255	Jr.	Tennessee
10. Karon Riley	6-4	247	Sr.	Minnesota
11. Andre Carter	6-4	260	Sr.	California
12. Jamal Reynolds	6-4	254	Sr.	Florida State
13. Sultan Abdul-Malik	6-3	240	Sr.	USC
14. Kenny King	6-4	270	So.	Alabama
15. Grant Irons	6-5	275	Sr.	Notre Dame
16. Randy Garner	6-4	272	Sr.	Arkansas
17. John Favret	6-4	230	Sr.	Wisconsin
18. Justin Kurpeikis	6-4	255	Sr.	Penn State
19. Dennis Johnson	6-7	261	Jr.	Kentucky
20. Julius Peppers	6-6	270	So.	North Carolina

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

1. Casey Hampton	6-1	305	Sr.	Texas
2. Wendell Bryant	6-4	298	Jr.	Wisconsin
3. Gerard Warren	6-4	310	Jr.	Florida
4. Willie Howard	6-4	290	Sr.	Stanford
5. Shaun Rogers	6-4	315	Sr.	Texas
6. Ennis Davis	6-4	300	Sr.	USC
7. Richard Seymour	6-6	295	Sr.	Georgia
8. Damione Lewis	6-3	285	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)
9. Marcus Stroud	6-6	300	Sr.	Georgia
10. Anthony Weaver	6-3	276	Jr.	Notre Dame
11. Terry Jolly	6-2	290	Sr.	Clemson
12. Mike Collins	6-3	290	Jr.	Ohio State
13. Larry Tripplett	6-2	295	Jr.	Washington
14. Ellis Wyms	6-3	272	Sr.	Mississippi St.
15. John Henderson	6-7	290	Jr.	Tennessee
16. Shawn Worthen	6-1	290	Sr.	TCU
17. Jeff Boyle	6-1	295	Sr.	Wyoming
18. Mario Fatafehi	6-2	305	Sr.	Kansas State
19. Chris Hoke	6-3	285	Sr.	BYU
20. Alan Harper	6-2	275	Jr.	Fresno State

Casey Hampton

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Winborn's collection of tackles is impressive

Jamie Winborn

JOHN F. GRIESHOP FOR SCHWARTZMAN

By Michael Bradley

In the mile-a-minute mind of Jamie Winborn, he is Dick Butkus, slobbering like a rabid bull terrier, waiting for the snap and another chance to break some poor ballcarrier in half.

He is Jack Lambert, blood seeping through the gap where his front teeth used to be, fingers wiggling in anticipation of another high-speed collision.

"I try to play as nasty as I can," Winborn says. "Football should be that way. It's getting a little too finessed. I like the old ways. There were some mean cats back then. That was football."

Vanderbilt's junior middle man was plenty mean last season, compiling an SEC-high 141 tackles, including 23 for loss. His finest moment came against South Carolina, when Commodores coach Woody Widenhofer devised a scheme that freed Winborn from all blockers and sent him after the ball. Twenty tackles later, Winborn looked like a 6-0, 232-pound cat with Gamecock feathers sticking out of his mouth. "You have to have enough speed to do that," Widenhofer says.

Winborn is plenty fast. He was a sprinter at Wetumpka (Ala.) High and played tailback as well as linebacker. But he wasn't tall enough for Alabama or Auburn. Widenhofer, who has created something of a linebacking factory in Nashville with such alums as Jamie Duncan, Antony Jordan and Gerald Collins, was happy to have him.

"Production is what it's all about," Widenhofer says. Winborn agrees. "Heart is 90 percent of it," he says.

No. 42's ticker must have been super-sized at birth. Seems as if he got an extra helping of mouth, too. If he's on a football field, he's talking. To teammates, offering encouragement or admonishment. Or to opponents, filling their ears with trash. Winborn believes the game is supposed to be fun, and to him, good times need proper audio accompaniment.

"I talk every play," he says. "If the other team jumps offsides, I tell them, 'You jumped offsides, because you're scared of us.' If we jump offsides, I tell them, 'You better look out, because here we come.' "

Winborn redshirted his first season but made an immediate impact in 1998, starting every game and piling up a league-high 131 tackles, 15 of which were for loss, and netting eight sacks. He was even better last year, keying the nation's 24th-best defense and helping the Commodores come within one win of their first bowl bid since 1982. Though many people point to a crucial fourth-quarter fumble that cost Vanderbilt a chance to beat Kentucky, Winborn has a different perspective.

"I told the players that we shouldn't look back at just the Kentucky game," Winborn says. "We should have beaten Florida, Georgia and Alabama. It's not just one play. It's a number of plays. I feel we're getting to the point where we'll play every down as hard as we can."

Butkus would like that kind of talk.

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Carlos Polk	6-2	250	Sr.	Nebraska
2. Jamie Winborn	6-0	232	Jr.	Vanderbilt
3. Jashon Sykes	6-3	230	Jr.	Colorado
4. Zeke Moreno	6-3	240	Sr.	USC
5. Dan Morgan	6-3	225	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)
6. Eddie Strong	6-2	235	Jr.	Mississippi
7. Quinton Caver	6-5	230	Sr.	Arkansas
8. Kendrell Bell	6-2	240	Sr.	Georgia
9. T.J. Turner	6-2	252	Sr.	Michigan State
10. Kris Micheaux	6-1	262	Sr.	Baylor
11. Torrance Marshall	6-2	245	Sr.	Oklahoma
12. Pernell Griffin	6-3	240	Jr.	East Carolina
13. Anthony Denman	6-2	233	Sr.	Notre Dame
14. Brandon Spoon	6-2	245	Sr.	North Carolina
15. Sean Hoffman	6-3	244	Sr.	Minnesota
16. Clifton Smith	6-2	250	So.	Syracuse
17. Matt Smith	6-4	247	Sr.	Oregon
18. Andra Davis	6-1	250	Jr.	Florida
19. Kendrell Bell	6-2	240	Sr.	Georiga
20. C.J. Zanotti	6-1	230	Sr.	Air Force

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Keith Adams	5-11	220	Jr.	Clemson
2. Saleem Rasheed	6-3	220	So.	Alabama
3. Eric Westmoreland	6-0	230	Sr.	Tennessee
4. Roylin Bradley	6-1	230	Sr.	Texas A&M
5. Boss Bailey	6-3	220	Jr.	Georgia
6. Rocky Calmus	6-3	231	Jr.	Oklahoma
7. Riall Johnson	6-3	240	Sr.	Stanford
8. Kautai Olevao	6-2	268	Sr.	Utah
9. Jason Glenn	6-1	235	Sr.	Texas A&M
10. Adam Archuleta	6-0	213	Sr.	Arizona State
11. Markus Steele	6-3	215	Sr.	USC
12. Tommy Polley	6-5	233	Sr.	Florida State
13. Taylor Suman	6-2	235	Jr.	Temple
14. Byron Thweatt	6-2	233	Sr.	Virginia
15. Kevin Bentley	6-1	233	Jr.	Northwestern
16. Brian Allen	6-2	225	Sr.	Florida State
17. Rick Crowell	6-3	245	Sr.	Colorado State
18. Josh Thornhill	6-3	243	Jr.	Michigan State
19. Akin Ayodele	6-2	250	Jr.	Purdue
20. Justin Ena	6-4	260	Jr.	BYU

Smallish Dyson measures up big time

By Kirk Bohls

Andre Dyson has been to the big time. In fact, he was just 11 rows from it, sitting behind the Tennessee bench at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, where he watched the Titans come up a yard short of forcing Super Bowl 34 into overtime.

Dyson watched in frustration as his brother, Titans receiver Kevin Dyson, caught a pass on the final play of the game and was tackled at the 1, preserving a 23-16 victory for the St. Louis Rams. What words of consolation did Andre have for his older brother?

"I told him he needs to lift some more weights," says Andre, a senior at Utah and one of the nation's premier cornerbacks. "He's got to do some more squats. You can't get tackled like that."

He was busting his brother's chops, but in truth was hurting for him. The two always have been close even though their parents divorced. Utah State, where their father played football, recruited Andre out of Clearfield High in Clinton, Utah, even though Kevin, four years older, was a standout for Utah.

"They wanted me to come there, start as a freshman and guard Kevin," says Andre, who last season helped lead the Utes to a 9-3 record, a share of the Mountain West title and a victory over Fresno State in the Las Vegas Bowl. "But I wanted to play with him."

Andre did for one season, getting on the field on special teams and in the Utes' nickel and dime packages. His brother Patrick, a senior, also plays for Utah and figures to start at free safety.

In the past two seasons, Andre (5-11, 174) excelled as an undersized but agile cornerback; he starred last year on the nation's sixth-most efficient pass defense. His footwork has been good enough that he could have played soccer at Weber State, and he was a "decent" point guard on his high school basketball team.

Dyson was beaten for only one touchdown the past two seasons. By his estimation, he was victimized for only two pass receptions for more than 20 yards last season.

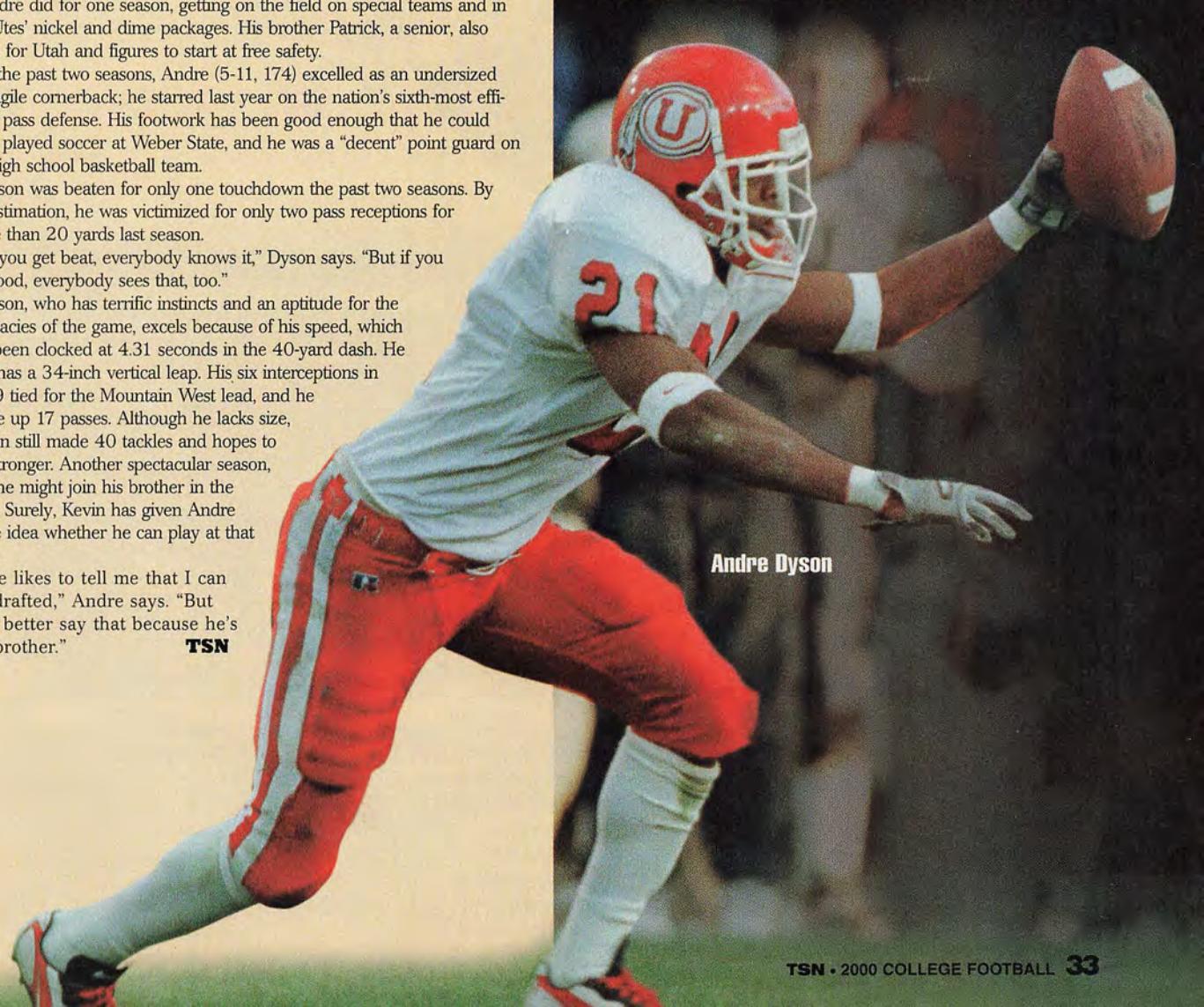
"If you get beat, everybody knows it," Dyson says. "But if you do good, everybody sees that, too."

Dyson, who has terrific instincts and an aptitude for the intricacies of the game, excels because of his speed, which has been clocked at 4.31 seconds in the 40-yard dash. He also has a 34-inch vertical leap. His six interceptions in 1999 tied for the Mountain West lead, and he broke up 17 passes. Although he lacks size, Dyson still made 40 tackles and hopes to get stronger. Another spectacular season, and he might join his brother in the NFL. Surely, Kevin has given Andre some idea whether he can play at that level.

"He likes to tell me that I can get drafted," Andre says. "But he'd better say that because he's my brother." **TSN**

CORNERBACKS

1. Jamar Fletcher	5-10	170	Jr.	Wisconsin
2. Fred Smoot	6-1	173	Sr.	Mississippi State
3. Tay Cody	5-11	180	Sr.	Florida State
4. Will Allen	5-11	182	Sr.	Syracuse
5. Antuan Simmons	5-10	190	Sr.	USC
6. Mike Rumph	6-2	195	Jr.	Miami (Fla.)
7. Dennis Weathersby	6-1	203	So.	Oregon State
8. Renaldo Hill	5-11	175	Sr.	Michigan State
9. Leonard Myers	5-11	200	Sr.	Miami
10. Daninelle Derricott	5-11	170	Sr.	Marshall
11. Keyuo Craver	5-10	190	Jr.	Nebraska
12. Bennie Alexander	5-9	181	Jr.	Florida
13. Larry Casher	5-11	164	Sr.	Auburn
14. Andre Lott	5-11	185	Sr.	Tennessee
15. Gary Baxter	6-2	195	Sr.	Baylor
16. Kevin Thomas	5-11	180	Jr.	UNLV
17. Andre Dyson	5-11	174	Sr.	Utah
18. Errol Hood	5-11	195	Jr.	North Carolina
19. Rashad Bauman	5-8	185	Jr.	Oregon
20. Dwight Smith	5-11	200	Sr.	Akron



Andre Dyson

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Akbar shows potential as next great Washington safety

By Michael Bradley

When Washington secondary coach Bob Hauck refers to Hakim Akbar as a work in progress and not yet entirely worthy of the high praise many have bestowed upon him, he has one big ally, should anyone argue his point—Akbar.

For two seasons, fans and media have compared Akbar, a junior free safety, with former Huskies greats such as Lawyer Milloy, Tony Parrish and Dana Hall. But Akbar realizes there is more to do.

Injuries and the adjustment to a new system inhibited Akbar's development last year. Although he started for the second straight season, he felt unable to hit with the same ferocity he had as a freshman. He also spent too much time thinking and analyzing his play rather than having fun.

"I don't even think I deserve to be compared to people like Lawyer Milloy," Akbar says. "I have a long way to go to reach the level of him and other great players here. Those guys are legends. I want to be Hakim."

He also wants to be clear of the ankle and shoulder injuries that made him less aggressive last season. Instead of delivering crunching blows, Akbar flinched at the moment of contact in anticipation of the "stingers" he received practically every time he used his shoulder to make a tackle. Akbar still tied for second on the team in stops with 69, a 10-hit improvement over his freshman season, when he played more of a run-support role in Washington's pressing defense.

When Rick Neuheisel took over as coach last year, he switched the defense to a 3-4 scheme, and Akbar (6-1, 195) played more of a traditional safety's role. With his speed and strength, that job description included just about everything.

"He can play man-to-man coverage, blitz and play an integral role in our run-stuffing package," Hauck says. "He can do it all."

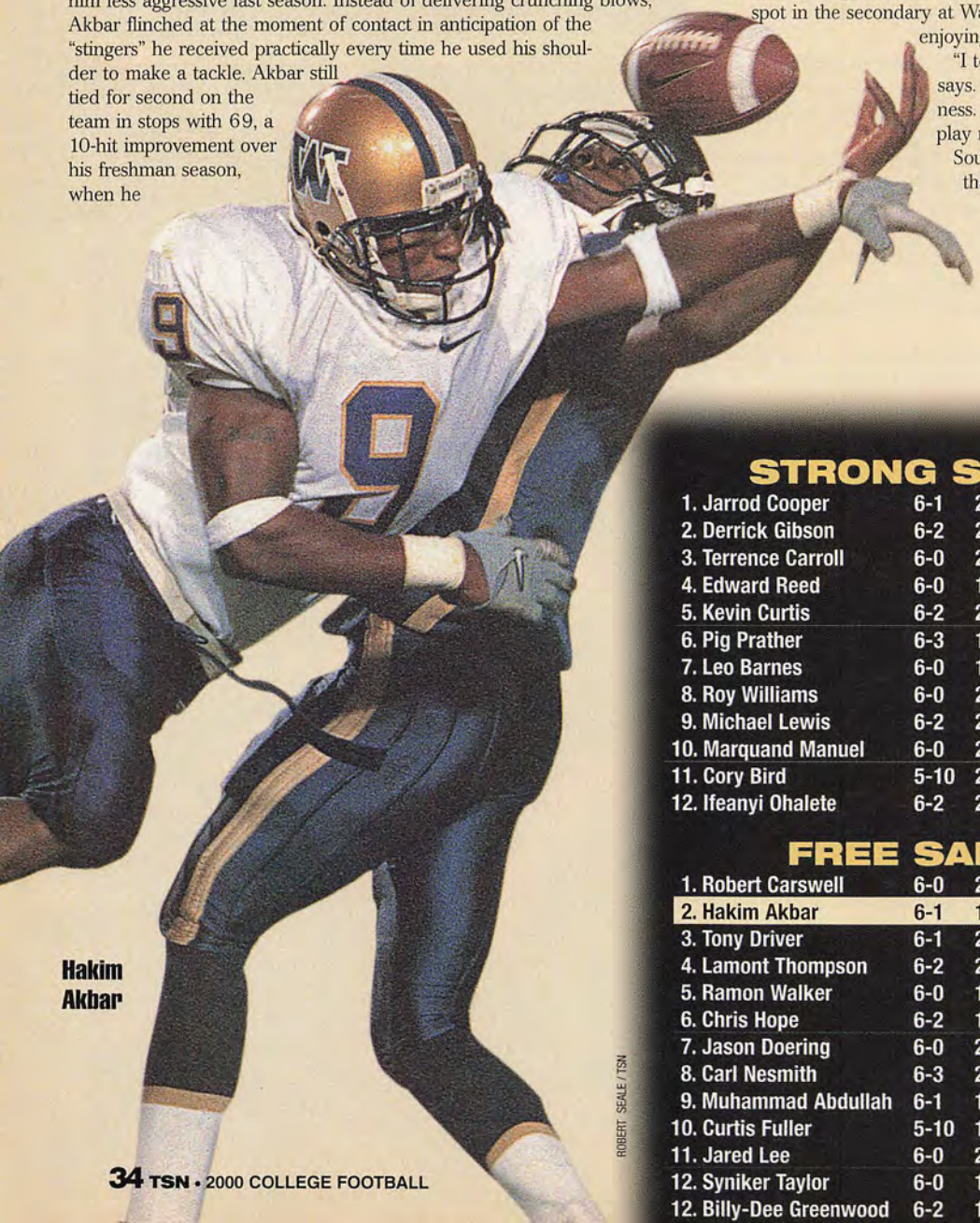
Akbar is used to taking on big jobs. He spent the first 12 years of his life in Atlanta, but when his parents divorced, he and brother Mikal moved to California with their father, Kenneth. Not long after that, Kenneth was sentenced to eight-plus years in prison for armed robbery. The boys went to live with their uncle, but he, too, encountered problems with the law. The boys were left on their own.

"It made me grow up faster," Akbar says. "My brother and I were there for each other because all we had was each other."

Mikal is spending the summer in Seattle with Hakim, getting in shape for the fall, when he'll start at Oklahoma State as a candidate at wide receiver after a productive effort at a junior college. Hakim will take his spot in the secondary at Washington with the stated mission of enjoying the game again.

"I took the fun out of football last year," he says. "I was too serious, like it was a business. Now, I want to have fun. That's when I play my best."

Sounds like it won't be too long before all that praise is warranted. **TSN**



Hakim Akbar

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

STRONG SAFETIES

1. Jarrod Cooper	6-1	210	Sr.	Kansas State
2. Derrick Gibson	6-2	200	Sr.	Florida State
3. Terrence Carroll	6-0	209	Sr.	Oregon State
4. Edward Reed	6-0	190	Jr.	Miami (Fla.)
5. Kevin Curtis	6-2	209	Jr.	Texas Tech
6. Pig Prather	6-3	192	Jr.	Mississippi State
7. Leo Barnes	6-0	182	Sr.	Southern Miss
8. Roy Williams	6-0	220	So.	Oklahoma
9. Michael Lewis	6-2	205	Jr.	Colorado
10. Marquand Manuel	6-0	208	Jr.	Florida
11. Cory Bird	5-10	215	Sr.	Virginia Tech
12. Ifeanyi Ohalete	6-2	225	Sr.	USC

FREE SAFETIES

1. Robert Carswell	6-0	215	Sr.	Clemson
2. Hakim Akbar	6-1	195	Jr.	Washington
3. Tony Driver	6-1	215	Sr.	Notre Dame
4. Lamont Thompson	6-2	208	Sr.	Washington State
5. Ramon Walker	6-0	190	So.	Pittsburgh
6. Chris Hope	6-2	195	Jr.	Florida State
7. Jason Doering	6-0	200	Sr.	Wisconsin
8. Carl Nesmith	6-3	215	Sr.	Kansas
9. Muhammad Abdullah	6-1	195	Jr.	Illinois
10. Curtis Fuller	5-10	191	Sr.	TCU
11. Jared Lee	6-0	200	Sr.	BYU
12. Syniker Taylor	6-0	195	Jr.	Mississippi
12. Billy-Dee Greenwood	6-2	185	Jr.	North Carolina

TSN'S ALL-AMERICAN RANKINGS

David Allen

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

KICKERS

1. Jamie Rheem	6-2	190	Sr.	Kansas State
2. Jeff Chandler	6-2	217	Sr.	Florida
3. Brian Kopka	5-7	170	Sr.	Maryland
4. Scott Westerfield	5-10	189	Sr.	Mississippi St.
5. Mike Biselli	5-10	180	Sr.	Stanford
6. Owen Pochman	6-0	180	Sr.	BYU
7. Les Binkley	5-9	170	Sr.	Mississippi
8. Brad Bohn	5-7	178	Sr.	Utah State
9. Dan Nystrom	5-11	205	So.	Minnesota
10. Ricky Bishop	5-9	170	Sr.	UTEP
11. Vitaly Pisetsky	5-10	228	Sr.	Wisconsin
12. John Anderson	6-1	170	So.	Washington

PUNTERS

1. Nick Harris	6-3	220	Sr.	California
2. David Leaverton	6-4	210	Sr.	Tennessee
3. Craig Jarrett	6-2	206	Jr.	Michigan State
4. Kevin Stemke	6-2	187	Sr.	Wisconsin
5. Dan Hadenfeldt	5-11	195	Sr.	Nebraska
6. Dave Zastudil	6-4	230	Jr.	Ohio
7. Mark Fazzolari	6-0	195	So.	West Virginia
8. Keith Cottrell	6-4	205	Jr.	Florida State
9. Kurtis Doerr	6-2	215	Sr.	Oregon
10. Joey Pelfanio	6-1	215	Sr.	Kansas
11. Jason Baker	6-1	195	Sr.	Iowa
12. Brian Morton	6-6	220	Sr.	Duke

RETURN MEN

1. David Allen	5-9	200	Sr.	Kansas State
2. Steve Smith	5-10	177	Sr.	Utah
3. Freddie Milons	5-11	183	Jr.	Alabama
4. Bobby Newcombe	6-0	195	Sr.	Nebraska
5. Nick Davis	5-10	180	Jr.	Wisconsin
6. Dallas Davis	5-10	175	Sr.	Colorado State
7. Leonard Scott	5-11	170	So.	Tennessee
8. Vinny Sutherland	5-9	191	Sr.	Purdue
9. Paul Arnold	6-1	210	So.	Washington
10. John Stone	5-11	182	Jr.	Wake Forest
11. Keith Stokes	5-8	180	Sr.	East Carolina
12. Zek Parker	5-10	180	Sr.	Louisville

Allen delivers many happy returns

By Michael Bradley

In the weeks before spring practice, Kansas State's David Allen was looking for videotape of Johnny Rodgers, one of the men (Oklahoma's Jack Mitchell is the other) with whom he shares the NCAA record for career punts returned for touchdowns (seven). Seems Allen wanted to learn about Rodgers, a former Heisman winner, even though Rodgers played for Nebraska, Kansas State's rival.

It's ironic Allen was searching for the film because just about every opponent on the Wildcats' 2000 schedule will be studying tape of Allen, hoping to discover a way to stop him.

So far, that hasn't been easy. For most of the past two seasons, opponents resorted to punting out of bounds or trying "directional kicks" that usually leave the field too early. It made more sense for them to shank one than to let Allen (5-9, 200) get his hands on the ball.

Entering his senior season, Allen is averaging 16.7 yards per return. In 1998, he returned four punts for touchdowns and set an NCAA record by running one back for a score in three consecutive games.

"We found out that David has a sixth or seventh sense that allows him, once he's in space, to make good decisions, avoid tacklers and understand where the creases are," Kansas State coach Bill Snyder says. "It's a little eerie that he has such a natural ability to do that."

His ability to field punts earned him the return job as a redshirt freshman. That didn't mean he was thrilled. "When I first started, I was as scared as anyone," Allen says. "I learned to focus on the ball, use my peripheral vision and get upfield."

Allen did that, averaging 13.4 yards per return in '97. The next season, he became a sensation, averaging a national-high 22.1 yards per return and scoring four times. "That was such a fluke," says Allen, who needs 172 yards to become the NCAA's career leader in punt-return yards. "All I was doing was hoping to catch the ball and get some good field position for the offense."

Allen hopes to be known for more than his return work (he also brings back kickoffs) this season. He'll try to become the Wildcats' starting tailback and hopes to become a potent run-catch-return weapon. It could happen. Last season, Allen averaged 4.9 yards on 74 carries and scored six times. "If we can get the ball in David's hands more times, obviously, our opportunities to move the ball upfield are greater," Snyder says.

More work for Allen? That ought to send 'em scurrying for the videotape. **TSN**

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Choose your weapon: *When Miller (No. 11) isn't passing or running, he can hand off to guys like (from left) Gunn, Stackhouse, McAllister and Sanford in what's the nation's top backfield.*

By Robert Falkoff

Backfield of Dreams

The Rebels' cause is aided by one of the nation's top backfields

Deuce McAllister and Romaro Miller don't go their separate ways when football practice ends at Mississippi. They share a house on the outskirts of campus, and that may be the most talent under one roof in Oxford since best-selling author John Grisham was a resident.

McAllister, a versatile running back who is being touted by Ole Miss for the Heisman Trophy, gives the Rebels a dominant ground presence. Miller, a strong-armed senior quarterback who has led Ole Miss to back-to-back bowl wins, provides a potent force in the passing game. When you sprinkle in 951-yard rusher Joe Gunn and bruising fullbacks Charles Stackhouse and Toward Sanford, it adds up to a backfield that is one of the best in the nation.

"They can run it well; they can throw it well," Oklahoma coach Bobby Stoops said after his Sooners lost, 27-25, to Ole Miss in the 1999 Independence Bowl. "Heck of an offensive football team."

Coming off an 8-4 season, McAllister, Miller, Gunn, Stackhouse and Sanford are driven by a common goal: to lift the program to the next level of success, the one that includes SEC championship rings and bowl invitations for New Year's Day.

"This is going to be a big year for this program," Miller says. "We're sort of at the hill. Now, we have to prove we can get *over* the hill."

McAllister, a 6-1, 220-pound senior, set the tone for 2000 in early January when he declined an opportunity to enter the NFL draft after being told by the league's advisory committee he would go anywhere from No. 15 to No. 45.

"I think that was an indication of his team attitude and his commitment

to our program," Mississippi coach David Cutcliffe says. "In my opinion, Deuce is as good a player as there is coming back in college football."

In 1999, McAllister ran for 809 yards, caught 20 passes for 201 yards, returned 25 kickoffs for a 26.1-yard average with a touchdown and completed 2-of-2 passes for 32 yards. His 1,692 all-purpose yards broke a 61-year-old school single-season record and made McAllister, who suffered a shoulder injury in the preseason and was limited the first two games and had to sit out a third last year, the Rebels' career all-purpose yardage leader (3,401). He finished the year with 13 touchdowns, second most in the SEC, and his average of 169.2 all-purpose yards per game paced the league.

"If we can replace the offensive linemen (both starting tackles) we lost and get some receivers to step up and stretch the defense, we'll be OK offensively," McAllister says. "Maybe we can make up those 15 points that were missing."

Cutcliffe can afford to use McAllister a variety of ways because he has another solid back in Gunn, a meat-and-potatoes, shifty 5-9, 200-pound junior who was headed for a 1,000-yard season before hurting his ankle late in '99.

"I wouldn't trade our two tailbacks for anybody's," Cutcliffe says.

Whereas Miller, McAllister and Gunn are in glamour roles, Stackhouse and Sanford do the dirty work with crunching blocks. The 221-pound Stackhouse, a junior, is coming off an injury-plagued season. He suffered a knee injury on the opening play of the fourth game and didn't fully recover until Ole Miss was in its November stretch run. If he stays healthy, Stackhouse could figure more prominently as a runner this year. He also has the potential to be an outstanding receiver out of the backfield.

Ole Miss ranked No. 2 in the SEC in rushing in 1999 (182.5), but Miller would like to improve on his 181.7 yards through the air. The 6-1, 195-pound senior, who completed 147-of-270 passes for 1,999 yards with 14 touchdowns and seven interceptions, will be entering his second year in the Cutcliffe system, and the receiving corps may be better suited to stretching the field.

"I think Romaro will have a tremendous senior year," says Cutcliffe, who groomed Peyton Manning, Tee Martin and Heath Shuler in his former post as Tennessee offensive coordinator. "He'll benefit from being in this system for one full year. I think he'll be one of the guys who will have a big, big year in our conference. I really believe that."

Miller, who worked primarily in a one-back set until Cutcliffe arrived at the end of his sophomore season, admits going through stretches last year when he felt uncomfortable.

"As I look back on it, there were times I wasn't comfortable and other times when we looked pretty good out there," Miller says. "I'm excited about where we can go with this offense. Our running game was No. 2 in the SEC, and that's a tremendous help for a quarterback. Teams can't just line up to stop the pass."

Indeed, the Ole Miss backfield is "Y-Deuce-K" compliant, and all systems are go. **TSN**

Robert Falkoff covers Mississippi for the Jackson Clarion Ledger.

LINE

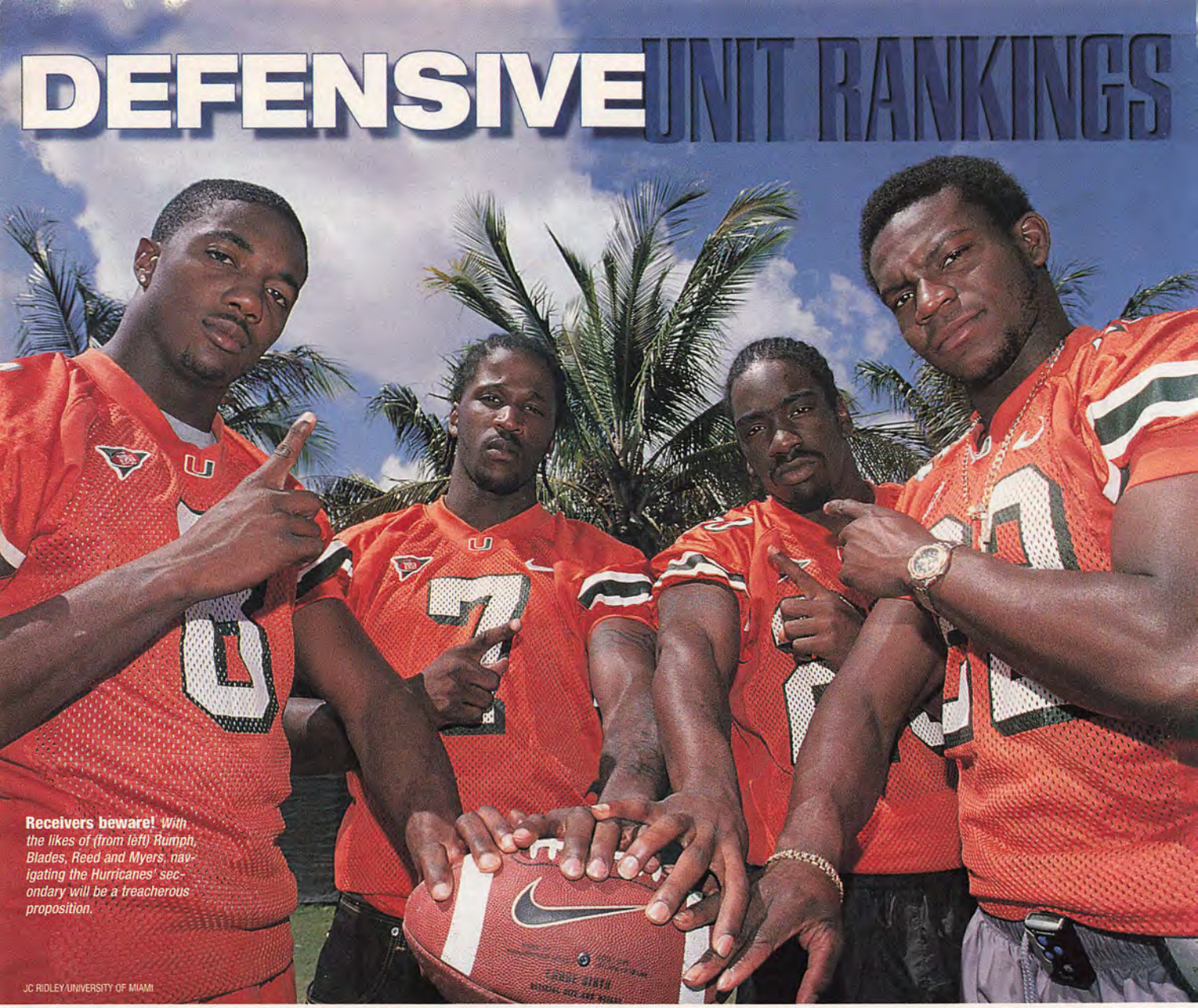
1. **Nebraska:** Toniu Fonoti, G; Russ Hochstein, G*; Dominic Raiola, C*; Jason Schwab, T*; Dave Volk, T*.
2. **Alabama:** Lannis Baxley, T; Will Cuthbert, G*; Dante Ellington, T*; Paul Hogan, C*; Kenric Lott, T; Griff Redmill, G*.
3. **Florida State:** Justin Amman, G*; Ross Brannon, T; Jerry Carmichael, G*; Montrae Holland, G; Jarad Moon, C; Tarlos Thomas, T*; Brett Williams, T*.
4. **Texas:** Matt Anderson, C*; Leonard Davis, T*; Derrick Dockery, G; Antwan Kirk-Hughes, G*; Cory Quye, T*; Mike Williams, T.
5. **Virginia Tech:** Steve DeMasi, C; Dave Kadela, T*; Anthony Lambo, T*; Matt Lehr, G*; Josh Redding, G*.
6. **TCU:** David Bobo, T*; Jeff Garner, C*; Mike Keathley, T*; Jeff Millican, G*; Victor Payne, G*.
7. **Michigan:** Jeff Backus, T*; David Brandt, C*; Steve Hutchinson, G*; Ben Mast, G*; Maurice Williams, T.
8. **Washington:** Kyle Benn, C*; Matt Fraize, G; Rock Nelson, G*; Elliot Silvers, T*; Chad Ward, T*.
9. **Purdue:** Ian Allen, G; Brandon Gorin, T*; Matt Light, T*; Gene Mruczkowski, G*; Chukky Okobi, C*; Rob Turner, G.
10. **Illinois:** Luke Butkus, C*; Jay Kulaga, G*; Tony Pashos, T*; Ray Redziniak, G*; Marques Sullivan, T*.
11. **Arkansas:** Gary Hobbs, T; Josh Melton, C*; Shannon Money, T*; Kenny Sandlin, G*; Lazerius White, G*.
12. **UCLA:** Bryce Bohlander, T; Oscar Cabrera, G*; Troy Danoff, C*; Brian Polak, G*; Mike Saffer, T*; Blake Worley, G*.

BACKFIELDS

1. **Mississippi:** Joe Gunn, RB*; Deuce McAllister, RB*; Romaro Miller, QB*; Toward Sanford, FB; Charles Stackhouse, FB; Tremaine Turner, FB.
2. **Florida State:** Jeff Chaney, RB; Nick Maddox, RB; William McCray, FB; Travis Minor, RB*; Chris Weinke, QB*.
3. **Nebraska:** Dan Alexander, IB*; Correll Buckhalter, IB; Thunder Collins, IB; Eric Crouch, QB*; Judd Davies ,FB; Willie Miller, FB*.
4. **Miami (Fla.):** Najeh Davenport, RB; Ken Dorsey, QB; James Jackson, RB*; Will McPartland, FB; Jarrett Payton, RB; Clinton Portis, RB.
5. **Texas:** Major Applewhite, QB*; Victor Ike, RB*; Hodges Mitchell, RB*; Chris Simms, QB; Matt Trissel, FB.
6. **Georgia:** Quincy Carter, QB*; Verron Haynes, RB; Brett Millican, RB; Jasper Sanks, RB*; Bruce Thornton, RB.
7. **Purdue:** Drew Brees, QB*; Sedrick Brown, RB; Steve Ennis, RB; Montrell Lowe, RB*.
8. **Virginia Tech:** Jarrett Ferguson, FB*; Cullen Hawkins, FB; Andre Kendrick, RB; Lee Suggs, RB; Michael Vick, QB*; Wayne Ward, RB.
9. **Florida:** Brock Berlin, QB; Rod Frazier, FB; Earnest Graham, RB*; Robert Gillespie, RB; Rex Grossman, QB; Jesse Palmer, QB; Rob Roberts, FB*.
10. **Boston College:** J.P. Comella, FB; William Green, RB; Tim Hasselbeck, QB*; Brian St. Pierre, QB; Cedric Washington, RB*.
11. **Indiana:** De'Wayne Hogan, FB*; Jeremi Johnson, FB; Brian Lewis, RB; Antwaan Randle El, QB*; Levron Williams, RB*.
12. **Washington:** Paul Arnold, RB; Braxton Cleman, RB; Pat Conniff, FB*; Willie Hurst, RB; Maurice Shaw, RB; Marques Tuiasosopo, QB*.

RECEIVERS

1. **Miami (Fla.):** Daryl Jones, WR; Andre King, WR; Santana Moss, WR*; Reggie Wayne, WR*; Robert Williams, TE.
2. **Kansas State:** Brandon Clark, WR; Aaron Lockett, WR; Shad Meier, TE; Quincy Morgan, WR; Martez Wesley, WR.
3. **Tennessee:** John Finlayson, TE*; Neil Johnson, TE; David Martin, WR*; Eric Parker, WR; Donte' Stallworth, WR; Cedrick Wilson, WR*.
4. **Ohio State:** Chad Cacchio, WR; Reggie Germany, WR*; Vanness Provitt, WR; Ken-Yon Rambo, WR*; Darnell Sanders, TE.
5. **Pittsburgh:** Antonio Bryant, WR*; Brennan Carroll, TE; R.J. English, WR; Latef Grim, WR*; Lamar Slade, WR.
6. **Alabama:** Antonio Carter, WR; Terry Jones, TE*; Jason McAddley, WR*; Freddie Milons, WR*; Arvin Richard, WR.
7. **Michigan:** Ronald Bellamy, WR; Tyrece Butler, WR; David Terrell, WR*; Shawn Thompson, TE*; Marquise Walker, WR.
8. **Georgia:** Reggie Brown, WR; Terrence Edwards, WR*; Michael Greer, WR*; Jevaris Johnson, TE*; Randy McMichael, TE; LaBrone Mitchell, WR; Durell Robinson, WR.
9. **Houston:** Orlando Iglesias, WR*; Jerrian James, WR*; Brandon Middleton, WR*; Jonathan Pritchett, TE.
10. **Nebraska:** Matt Davison, WR; John Gibson, WB; Aaron Golliday, TE*; Bobby Newcombe, WB; Wilson Thomas, WR; Tracey Wistrom, TE*.
11. **UCLA:** Gabe Crecion, TE*; Jon Dubravac, WR; Bryan Fletcher, TE; Freddie Mitchell, WR; Paul Nelson, WR; Brian Poli-Dixon, WR.
12. **Virginia:** Billy Baber, TE*; Kevin Coffey, WR*; James Johnson, WR; Tavon Mason, WR; Billy McMullen, WR.



Receivers beware! *With the likes of (from left) Rumph, Blades, Reed and Myers, navigating the Hurricanes' secondary will be a treacherous proposition.*

JC RIDLEY/UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

By Chris Perkins

Hurricane Warning

Talent, depth, experience and confidence make the Miami secondary among the nation's best

It's deep and talented. Miami's secondary, a unit that excelled during the school's glory days of the 1980s and early '90s, again is being regarded as one of the nation's best.

"The greatness is coming back," senior cornerback Leonard Myers says. "You can see it especially in our nickel and dime packages. We have guys that can come in and start. We're loaded."

But it's vital for the Hurricanes' secondary to reduce the mental errors that have plagued it the last couple of years. If that's accomplished, this could be the best unit ever to play at the school. The group is experienced and can cover, tackle, hit and intimidate.

The players aren't big stats guys, but they're fierce. That attitude was helped by the aggressive style brought in by defensive coordinator Greg Schiano.

"We just want to go out and put fear in the offense's mind," says free safety Al Blades, the younger brother of former Miami standouts Bennie and Brian Blades.

Miami returns nine defensive starters, led by the entire secondary that helped the 'Canes rank 11th in the nation in pass-efficiency defense in 1999. Not bad for a group that finished 85th in '98 and gave up a school-record 2,622 yards and 20 touchdown passes. The Hurricanes return three All-Big East defensive backs—senior safeties Blades and Ed Reed, and junior cornerback Mike Rumph—but that doesn't tell the whole story of this multifaceted unit.

■ On the bizarre side, Myers is dating his high school English teacher, who received her undergraduate degree from Florida State, Miami's biggest rival.

■ On the puzzling side, freshman Tory Mitchell, a national top 100 recruit in 1999, left school last year during two-a-days to return home to Big Spring, Texas. Mitchell, who has Olympic aspirations as a sprinter, missed the season but returned to Miami in the spring.

■ On the throwback side, Blades and Reed, perhaps the two loudest players in the locker room, often wear camouflage to games.

As for the group's talent, it's almost mind-boggling. Miami has six players who have started at least four games over the past two years. Cornerback Markese Fitzgerald, who has started 13 career games, is battling for a starting job. The same is true for cornerback Delvin Brown, who started four games at free safety two years ago. That type of competition keeps pressure on the starters.

"Guys like Mike Rumph and Leonard Myers know they'd better stay sharp," Miami secondary coach Chuck Pagano says, "because they've got legit guys behind them."

The scary thing is, Miami's secondary should be better by the time it takes the field for its season opener, August 31 against McNeese State. Every day in practice, it goes against perhaps the nation's best group of receivers and tailbacks.

"One thing we try to sell kids on in recruiting is just that," Pagano says. "On a daily basis, you're going to get to cover guys like Santana Moss and Reggie Wayne and Andre King. You're going to tackle guys like James Jackson and Najeh Davenport and Clinton Portis and Jarrett Payton. ... What a way to gain confidence and sharpen your game."

Two memorable plays from last season help tell the story of the (physical) success and (mental) failures of Miami's secondary. In the Kickoff Classic against Ohio State, speedy Buckeyes tailback Michael Wiley was on a breakaway run, just yards from scoring. Out of nowhere, Blades, the slowest member of the Hurricanes' secondary, caught Wiley and made a diving, shoestring tackle. The play prevented a touchdown and turned out to be key in a 23-12 Miami victory.

Two games later, No. 8-ranked Miami was clinging to a 23-20 lead over No. 3 Penn State with 1:41 remaining. The Hurricanes were in man-to-man coverage and Rumph, playing with a broken thumb, lined up opposite Penn State receiver Chafie Fields. Earlier in the game, Fields had burned Miami on a 49-yard touchdown reception when the coverage had collapsed.

On this play, which started at the Nittany Lions' 21, Penn State quarterback Kevin Thompson arched a pass over Rumph, who would later say he was surprised to be in man coverage, and into Fields' hands. From there, all Fields had to do was beat Reed, who took a bad angle and was out of position to make the tackle. Touchdown, Penn State. Game over. Penn State 27, Miami 23.

It marked the first in a number of times the Miami secondary would be beaten in '99 because of a mental error. The Hurricanes vow that won't be a trend again this year. And the defensive backs say they'll live up to their preseason publicity.

"I think we're doing all the right things right now where we should be No. 1," says Reed. **TSN**

Chris Perkins covers Miami for the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) Sun-Sentinel.

LINE

1. **Florida:** Alex Brown, E*; Thaddeus Bullard, E; Derrick Chambers, T*; Buck Gurley, T*; Tron LaFavor, E; Arpedge Rolle, NT; Gerard Warren, NT*.
2. **USC:** Sultan Abdul-Malik, E*; Shamsud-Din Abdul-Shaheed, E; Matt Childers, E*; Ennis Davis, T*; Lonnie Ford, E*; Ryan Nielsen, T*; Bernard Riley, T.
3. **Wisconsin:** Wendell Bryant, T*; John Favret, E*; Ross Kolodziej, E*; Eric Mahlik, NT; Jake Sprague, NT.
4. **Georgia:** Bruce Adrine, E*; Charles Grant, E*; David Jacobs, E; Josh Mallard, E; Richard Seymour, T*; Terin Smith, E; Marcus Stroud, T*.
5. **UCLA:** Kenyon Coleman, E*; Anthony Fletcher, T; Ken Kocher, T*; Rodney Leisle, T; Steve Morgan, T; Sean Phillips, E; Rusty Williams, E*.
6. **Ohio State:** Rodney Bailey, E*; Joe Brown, E; Mike Collins, T*; Ryan Pickett, T*; Brent Johnson, E*; Kenny Peterson, E.
7. **Alabama:** Kenny King, E*; Garry McNealy, T; Kindal Moorehead, E*; Kenny Smith, T; Kelvis White, T.
8. **California:** Tully Banta-Cain, E; Andre Carter, E*; Daniel Nwangwu, T*; Jacob Waasdorp, NT.
9. **BYU:** Ryan Denney, E; Setema Gali, E*; Chris Hoke, T*; Hans Olsen, T*.
10. **Texas A&M:** Rocky Bernard, E*; Ron Edwards, NT*; Ronald Flemons, E*; Ty Warren, E.
11. **Oklahoma:** Corey Callens, E*; Ryan Fisher, T*; Corey Heinecke, E*; Bary Holleyman, T*; Eric Thunander, E.
12. **Southern Miss:** Marchene Hatchett, E; Cedric Scott, E*; Deric Scott, E; DeQuincy Scott, NT*; Daleroy Stewart, T*.

LINEBACKERS

1. **USC:** Kori Dickerson, OLB; Aaron Graham, MLB; Zeke Moreno, MLB*; Chris Prosser, OLB; Markus Steele, OLB*; Henry Wallace, OLB.
2. **Georgia:** Boss Bailey, OLB*; Kendrell Bell, MLB*; Adrian Hollingshed, MLB; Jesse Miller, OLB; Will Witherspoon, OLB.
3. **Texas A&M:** Cornelius Anthony, ILB*; Roylin Bradley, OLB*; Brian Gamble, ILB*; Jason Glenn, OLB*.
4. **Colorado:** Ty Gregorak OLB*; Andy Peeke, OLB; Jashon Sykes, MLB*; Drew Wahlroos, OLB*.
5. **Florida:** Travis Carroll, MLB; Andra Davis, MLB; Matt Farrior, OLB; Byron Hardmon, OLB; Marcus Oquendo-Johnson, OLB; Daryl Owens, OLB.
6. **Florida State:** Brian Allen, OLB*; Bradley Jennings, MLB*; Tommy Polley, OLB*; Kendyll Pope, OLB.
7. **Arizona State:** Adam Archuleta, OLB*; Solomon Bates, MLB*; Eric Fields, OLB; Elza Gennicks, OLB.
8. **Miami (Fla.):** Chris Campbell, OLB*; Howard Clark, OLB; Dan Morgan, MLB*; Sheven Marshall, MLB; Jermell Weaver, OLB; Jerrell Weaver, OLB; D.J. Williams, OLB.
9. **North Carolina:** Sedrick Hodge, OLB*; Quincy Monk, OLB; Merceda Perry, OLB*; Brandon Spoon, MLB*.
10. **Texas:** Tyrone Jones, OLB*; De'Andre Lewis, MLB*; O.J. McClintock, OLB; Everick Rawls, OLB*; Marcus Wilkins, OLB.
11. **Oklahoma:** Rocky Calmus, OLB*; Torrance Marshall, MLB*; Roger Steffen, OLB*.
12. **UCLA:** Santi Hall, OLB; Ryan Nece, OLB*; Marcus Reese, OLB; Robert Thomas, MLB*; Tony White, OLB*.

SECONDARIES

1. **Miami (Fla.):** Al Blades, FS*; Markese Fitzgerald, CB; Leonard Myers, CB*; Edward Reed, SS*; Mike Rumph, CB*.
2. **Alabama:** Gerald Dixon, CB*; Tony Dixon, SS*; Milo Lewis, CB*; Reggie Myles, FS*; Marcus Spencer, SS.
3. **Florida:** Bennie Alexander, CB*; Robert Cromartie, CB*; Daryl Dixon, FS*; Todd Johnson, SS; Marquand Manuel, SS*; Lester Norwood, FS*; Lito Sheppard, CB.
4. **Florida State:** Tay Cody, CB; Derrick Gibson, SS; Chris Hope, FS; Clevan Thomas, CB.
5. **Wisconsin:** Jason Doering, FS*; Mike Echols, CB*; Jamar Fletcher, CB*; Joey Boese, SS.
6. **Kansas State:** Adrian Beard, CB; Jerametrius Butler, CB*; Dyshod Carter, CB*; Jarrod Cooper, SS*; Jon McGraw, FS.
7. **USC:** Kevin Arbet, FS; feanyi Ohalete, SS*; Troy Polamalu, SS; Kris Richard, CB*; Darrell Rideaux, CB; Antuan Simmons, CB*.
8. **Georgia:** Terreal Bierria, SS*; Cap Burnett, FS*; Jamie Henderson, CB*; Cory Robinson, CB; Tim Wansley, CB*.
9. **Texas:** Roderick Babers, CB; Ahmad Brooks, CB*; Greg Brown, FS*; Ervis Hill, CB*; Lee Jackson, SS*; Quentin Jammer, CB.
10. **Washington:** Hakim Akbar, SS*; Roderick Green, CB; Anthony Vontoure, CB*; Curtis Williams, FS*.
11. **Oregon State:** Calvin Carlyle, FS*; Terrence Carroll, SS*; Keith Heyward-Johnson, CB*; Ricky Walker, CB; Dennis Weathersby, CB*;
12. **TCU:** Russell Gary, SS*; Jason Goss, CB*; Curtis Fuller, FS*; Charlie Owens, S; Greg Walls, CB*.

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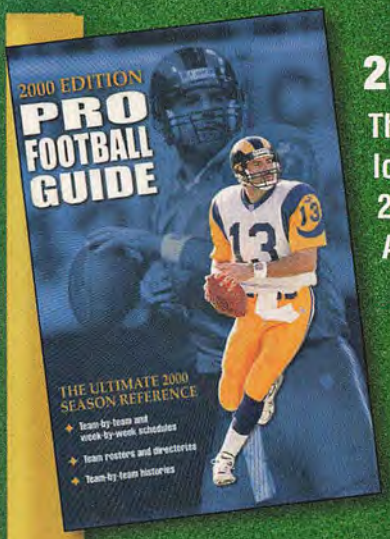

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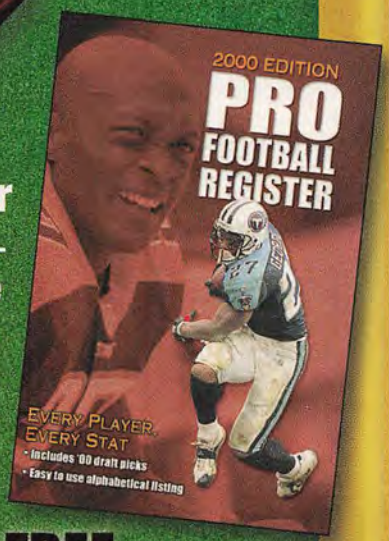

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HOKIE HEISMAN HOPES

By Michael Bradley

Nothing against Dave Meyer, but it's a good bet the 1999 Virginia Tech season wouldn't have been quite so sugary had Hokies coach Frank Beamer been forced to switch quarterbacks following last October's grudge match at Virginia.

That was back when Michael Vick was still an unproven redshirt freshman, coming off a 7-for-17, 88-yard, three-interception atrocity in a 31-11 win over Clemson that was closer than the score indicated. Next up were the Cavaliers, who spent the week before the game providing verbal inspiration for Tech with comments about how the folks over in Blacksburg were a bit behind the aristocracy at Tom Jefferson's school. Vick, who had distinguished himself to that point more with his legs—three touchdown runs against James Madison—than his arm and had missed Tech's second game of the season with an ankle injury, wasn't really in danger of losing his starting job. Then again, what did he know?

"We had a good backup (Meyer), and I knew if I didn't perform in my first three games of the year, a change would have been made," Vick says.

So, Vick performed. He completed 7-of-9 against the Cavs for 222 yards and a score in a 31-7 rout. "That's when I felt it was my team," Vick says. You know the rest. The Hokies ripped through the soft Big East, riding their great defense and Vick's magical talents, and landed in the Sugar Bowl. Florida State's speed and experience prevailed in New Orleans, 46-29, but not before the lefthanded prodigy stifled all those who had said he ran too much or threw too little or was too young to be performing on the national stage.

Playing with an injured left thumb, Vick nonetheless flashed the same jaw-dropping elusiveness and heat-seeking arm strength that had earned him plaudits throughout the regular season. A 6-1, 212-pounder, he ran like a tailback and threw like Elway. If you saw the game, you remember that first-quarter play when Vick scrambled right, stopped dead and threw a 17-yard lightning bolt to Andre Davis for a first down on third-and-17. Off the wrong foot. "I do shake my head sometimes at how I get certain passes off," says Vick, a native of Newport News, Va., who led Tech to an 11-1 mark. "I guess it's instincts."

Talent may describe Vick's ability to mesmerize fans and overmatch defenses—Temple could have had 15 players on the field and still not tackled him—but the Hokie is more than just a natural. By the end of last season, he had displayed a maturity and preparedness well beyond his years. His quiet confidence had inspired his teammates to believe in him, while his substantial talents and ability to make a game plan spring to life brought the grudging respect of opponents.

Vick's numbers don't boggle the mind. He completed 90-of-152 passes for 1,840 yards, 12 scores and five interceptions en route to leading the nation in passing efficiency (180.4). Vick rushed for 580 yards, averaging 5.3 yards per carry and scoring eight times, including a 75-yard scoring bolt against the aforementioned Owls. Nice. His greatest accomplishment was providing the Hokies with a worthy offensive partner for their fearsome defense and predatory special teams. Tech averaged 456.8 yards of offense per game, 140.1 more than its 1998 counterpart that ranked seventh in the Big East. "Our offense is a pretty good fit for him," says Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, whose team threw fewer passes (199) than only six other schools in Division I-A last year.

Before Vick could take control of the Tech attack, which blends run, pass and option, he had to endure the redshirt year. It didn't come as a surprise; Beamer and Tommy Reamon, Vick's coach at Warwick High in Newport News, had devised a plan for him that included the learning period. Tech had an experienced quarterback in place for 1998, Al Clark, and even though Clark missed four games that season due to injury, Beamer wasn't about to waste a season of Vick's eligibility on fill-in work. But that didn't make the time without football easy. "It was tough, but it was something I had to do," Vick says. "I look back on that year and see how much I benefited from it."

The fall of '98 was a learning experience in many ways for Vick. He had to mature on the field, but he learned that there was more to college football than practicing and playing. Before the Hokies played Clemson that year, Vick took the written test offensive coordinator Rickey Bustle gives to all Tech quarterbacks before each game—the one that shows the player's understanding of the game plan and the opposing defense. The results were not good. "I bombed it," Vick says.

Bustle decided to have a little talk with his prodigy. Make that a lecture. A high-decibel lecture. "We had a little heart-to-heart talk," Bustle says. Yeah, right. "He told me that if I wanted to play quarterback, I had to take it seriously," Vick says.

CRAIG MELVIN FOR TSN

After a sensational redshirt freshman season, Virginia Tech quarterback Michael Vick is poised to become the nation's best player

By last year's spring practice, Vick was committed. It was easy to see why the Tech defenders had been gushing about Vick when he was on the scout team. And why Syracuse had tried so hard to make Vick the next Donovan McNabb/Marvin Graves/Don McPherson. By the time September rolled around, Vick was a poorly kept secret. Most teams consider a redshirt quarterback a weakness in their preseason assessments. There was no way that could happen with Vick around. Before the season opener with James Madison, the team already was his, even if he didn't think so. By the time the Hokies hit the Big East portion of the schedule, the Vick phenomenon was in full frenzy. When he engineered a come-from-behind victory at West Virginia to keep Tech's unbeaten season intact, using a 31-yard scramble to set up Shayne Graham's 44-yard game-winning kick in the waning seconds, the legend was complete.

"He plays the game better than anybody I've ever seen," Beamer says. "He just does it. He can run so fast. He can throw so well. He makes something out of nothing. And he's a great guy. You see him smile, and you want to smile back at him."

Vick finished third in the Heisman balloting and found his way onto several All-American teams. Not bad for a freshman. He enters the season as the Heisman favorite. Problem is, Virginia Tech has lost its best running back (Shyrone Stith), some big-time talent on defense and both kickers. No problem; the Hokies have Vick, who will be protected by a strong line and throw to good wideouts. He's calm. He's big enough to withstand the heat. And he has the arm and smarts to be a pocket passer, in case some of you skeptics (you know who you are) are wondering. Here's a suggestion, coach Beamer: Put Vick in the shotgun for the next three years, like Florida State did with Charlie Ward during his Heisman Trophy season in 1993 that helped produce a national title, and turn him loose. Every down. Forget about pressure. Vick has too much talent to let that bother him.

"I want to have the ball in my hands," Vick says. "Some people are not like that. They're afraid. I'm not afraid to fail. If I fail, I'm going to come back with more confidence."

Looks like Vick doesn't have to worry about getting pulled anymore. It's his team. Hell, it's his world. **TSN**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

TROPHY TALK

By Tom Dienhart

An early look at Heisman front-runners and other award candidates.

Heisman

1. Michael Vick, QB, Virginia Tech. He made a name for himself after enjoying the best freshman season since Georgia's Herschel Walker ran roughshod over the nation in 1980. The sophomore's combination of running and passing skills is unmatched. A veteran line will offer ample support and the receivers look good, but a running back must develop to create operating room. With few high-profile games, it's vital Vick deliver wins and big numbers during trips to Miami (Fla.) and Syracuse.

2. Drew Brees, QB, Purdue. Has there been a more recognizable birthmark since Marilyn Monroe's? Indeed, Brees has built a hurricane of momentum the past two years. And he has enough supporting talent to post pinball numbers, but the senior likely has to secure a Big Ten title (or come close) to win the Heisman.

3. Quincy Carter, QB, Georgia. The Bulldogs' quarterback will work with a terrific receiving corps, but the line must mature and the ground game will need to produce to give the junior room to work. It's vital Carter erase the Dawgs' third-class citizenship behind Tennessee, which comes to Athens, and Florida, which the Bulldogs play at Jacksonville.

4. Eric Crouch, QB, Nebraska. The junior may end up being the Cornhuskers' best-ever quarterback. He'll have help executing the option from an array of backfield talent and a strong line. Plus, his receivers aren't too bad. A late-season trip to Kansas State may serve as a stage to seize the honor in what may be a national title season.

5. Chris Weinke, QB, Florida State. Playing a high-profile position for a perennial national contender always helps. The 28-year-old senior citizen will have the protection and ground game to succeed, but targets need to emerge. And the Seminoles must dominate an average ACC and score wins over Miami (away) and Florida (home).

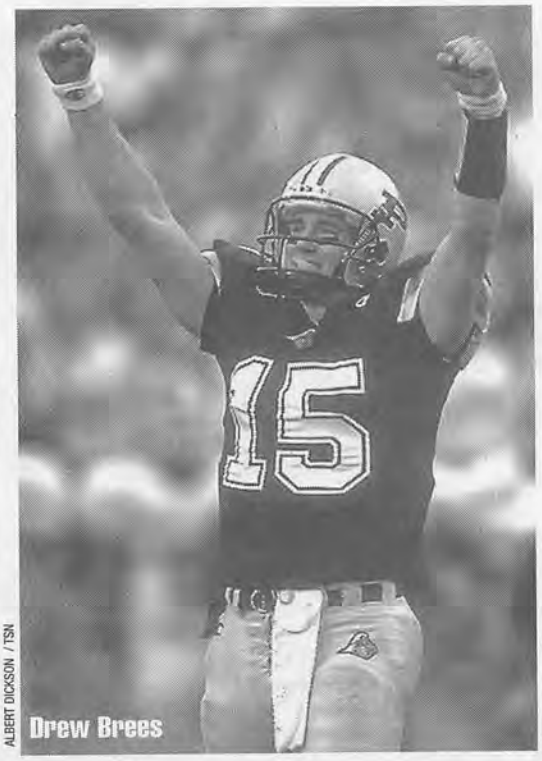
6. Freddie Milons, WR, Alabama. His effort against Florida in the SEC title game, when he earned MVP honors by rushing six times for 116 yards, including an electrifying 77-yard jaunt, was his first volley for the award. It's difficult for a wideout to win the Heisman—the last was Michigan's Desmond Howard in 1991—but Milons also gets touches on end arounds and at quarterback. Plus, he's a deadly return man.

7. Santana Moss, WR, Miami (Fla.). Few schools feature as much skill talent as the Hurricanes, but Moss won't get lost among the stars in south Florida. In fact, they'll help deflect defensive attention. The key for Moss will be the health of quarterback Ken Dorsey—and scoring wins over Virginia Tech and Florida State.

8. LaMont Jordan, RB, Maryland. He made a big statement last year by running for 1,632 yards, which ranked fifth in the nation. Now that he has a name, he needs a 2,000-yard season and must lead the Terrapins to their first bowl since 1990. Even that may not be enough in a league that features a 2,000-pound gorilla in Florida State.

9. LaDainian Tomlinson, RB, TCU. Tomlinson grabbed the nation's attention by pacing the land with 1,850 yards rushing in a junior season highlighted by his NCAA single-game record 406-yard effort againt UTEP. And he could get even more attention since TCU has the talent and schedule to run the table. Tomlinson must do his part by rushing for over 2,000 yards.

10. Alex Brown, DE, Florida. He's the biggest playmaker among the nation's defenders. Since the Gators should have a toothy defense, it will be difficult for teams to focus on him. To have any Heisman hopes, though, the junior must score big sacks in big games.

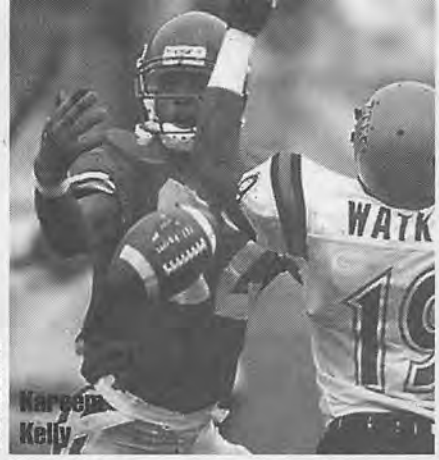


ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Drew Brees

Quincy Carter

BOB LEVERONE / TSN


ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Kareem Kelly

PAUL NISELY / TSN

Justin Smith

JAY CRIHFIELD FOR TSN

Steve Hutchinson

Biletnikoff
(top receiver)

1 Freddie Milons, Alabama
2. Santana Moss, Miami (Fla.)
3. Rod Gardner, Clemson
4. Kareem Kelly, USC
5. Terrence Edwards, Georgia
6. Andre Davis, Virginia Tech
7. Latef Grim, Pittsburgh
8. David Terrell, Michigan
9. Quincy Morgan, Kansas State
10. Ronney Daniels, Auburn

Lombardi
(top lineman)

1. Alex Brown, E, Florida
2. Casey Hampton, DT, Texas
3. Wendell Bryant, DT, Wisconsin
4. Steve Hutchinson, G, Michigan
5. Justin Smith, E, Missouri
6. Paul Hogan, C, Alabama
7. Roland Seymour, E, Florida St.
8. Leonard Davis, OT, Texas
9. Aaron Schobel, E, TCU
10. Kyle Vanden Bosch, E, Nebraska

Outland
(top interior lineman)

1. Steve Hutchinson, G, Michigan
2. Kenyon Coleman, E, UCLA
3. Leonard Davis, OT, Texas
4. Gerard Warren, DT, Florida
5. Ennis Davis, DT, USC
6. David Bobo, OT, TCU
7. Dave Kadela, OT, Virginia Tech
8. Chad Ward, OT, Washington
9. Jeff Backus, OT, Michigan
10. Willie Howard, DT, Stanford

PAUL NISLEY / TSN

Roylin Bradley

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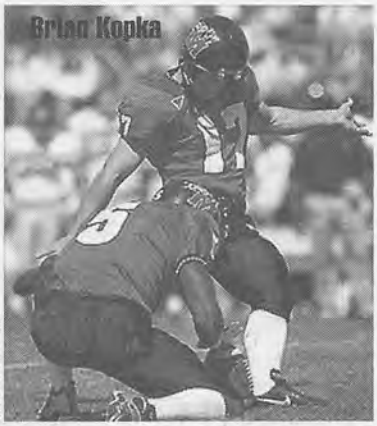
Tay Cody


BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Brian Kopka

Butkus
(top linebacker)

1. Carlos Polk, MLB, Nebraska
2. Saleem Rasheed, OLB, Alabama
3. Eric Westmoreland, OLB, Tenn.
4. Keith Adams, OLB, Clemson
5. Roylin Bradley, OLB, Texas A&M
6. Jamie Winborn, MLB, Vanderbilt
7. Byron Thweatt, OLB, Virginia
8. Jashon Sykes, ILB, Colorado
9. Dan Morgan, MLB, Miami (Fla.)
10. Zeke Moreno, ILB, USC

Thorpe
(top defensive back)

1. Jamar Fletcher, CB, Wisconsin
2. Jarrod Cooper, SS, Kansas St.
3. Fred Smoot, CB, Mississippi St.
4. Hakim Akbar, SS, Washington
5. Robert Carswell, FS, Clemson
6. Tay Cody, CB, Florida State
7. Will Allen, CB, Syracuse
8. Andre Lott, CB, Tennessee
9. Derrick Gibson, SS, Florida St.
10. Antuan Simmons, CB, USC

Groza
(top kicker)

1. Jamie Rheem, Kansas State
2. Brian Kopka, Maryland
3. Jeff Chandler, Florida
4. Vitaly Pisetsky, Wisconsin
5. Josh Brown, Nebraska
6. Mike Biselli, Stanford
7. Les Binkley, Mississippi
8. John Anderson, Washington
9. Owen Pochman, BYU
10. Brad Bohn, Utah State

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Ranking the conferences

By Tom Dienhart

1. SEC. It's difficult to envision the SEC ever losing its crown as the nation's premier league. Alabama will carry the torch this year, but keep an eye on Georgia. Further bolstering the league is the strength of coaches such as South Carolina's Lou Holtz and Vanderbilt's Woody Widenhofer at bottom-feeder programs. And when it comes to speed, the SEC is a killer.

2. Big 12. These guys get the nod over the Big Ten based on tremendous strength at the top in Nebraska, Kansas State and Texas. And the future looks bright with young coaches such as Bob Stoops at Oklahoma and Mike Leach at Texas Tech.

3. Big Ten. Although Wisconsin looks like national-championship material, this appears to be a down year with Michigan and Penn State retooling and Ohio State searching for an offense and toughness. Still, if you like good quarterback play, this is your league.

4. Pac-10. The conference took a beating last year, when Idaho, San Jose State and New Mexico State claimed wins over Pac-10 foes. Look for a rebound because perennial Pac-10 powers USC, UCLA and Washington will see young talent bloom.

5. Big East. This may be the conference's strongest configuration ever, with Miami boasting national title hopes. Virginia Tech, Boston College and Syracuse are strong, and Pittsburgh is on the rise under Walt Harris.

6. ACC. It's another case of Florida State and the eight dwarfs. Clemson is the only other Top 25 candidate. Still, keep an eye on North Carolina and Maryland to make a move.

7. Mountain West. In Year Two, there isn't a great team. But from top (Colorado State) to bottom (New Mexico), there are few weak spots. Even UNLV, entering its second season under John Robinson, won't be an easy out.

8. Conference USA. Always underrated and underappreciated. Southern Miss, a Top 25 team, and East Carolina can trade punches with most teams in the nation. Houston, Louisville and Cincinnati may surprise. Wait till TCU joins next year.

9. WAC. A case of the haves (TCU, Fresno State, Hawaii, Rice) and have-nots (SMU, UTEP, Tulsa, San Jose State, Nevada). Still, the league could make headlines with an unbeaten team (TCU) and Heisman winner (TCU running back LaDainian Tomlinson).

10. MAC. This 13-member amalgamation is proof there isn't always strength in numbers. The only drama will be to see if someone can end Marshall's three-year run of dominance. Akron, Toledo and Northern Illinois have the best chance.

11. Big West. It's time to pay your respects to a conference in its last season. We can't say we'll miss it. Still, make sure you check out Boise State.

Alabama's Andrew Zow

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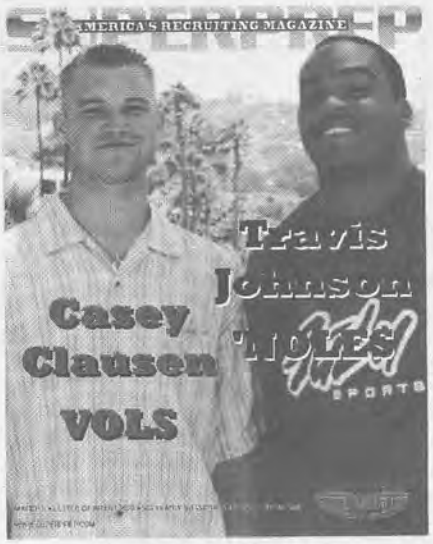

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SCOUTING THE SEC

Forget the hot seat, Alabama's DuBose figures again to be a hot commodity

CONFERENCE RANK 1

By Mike Strange

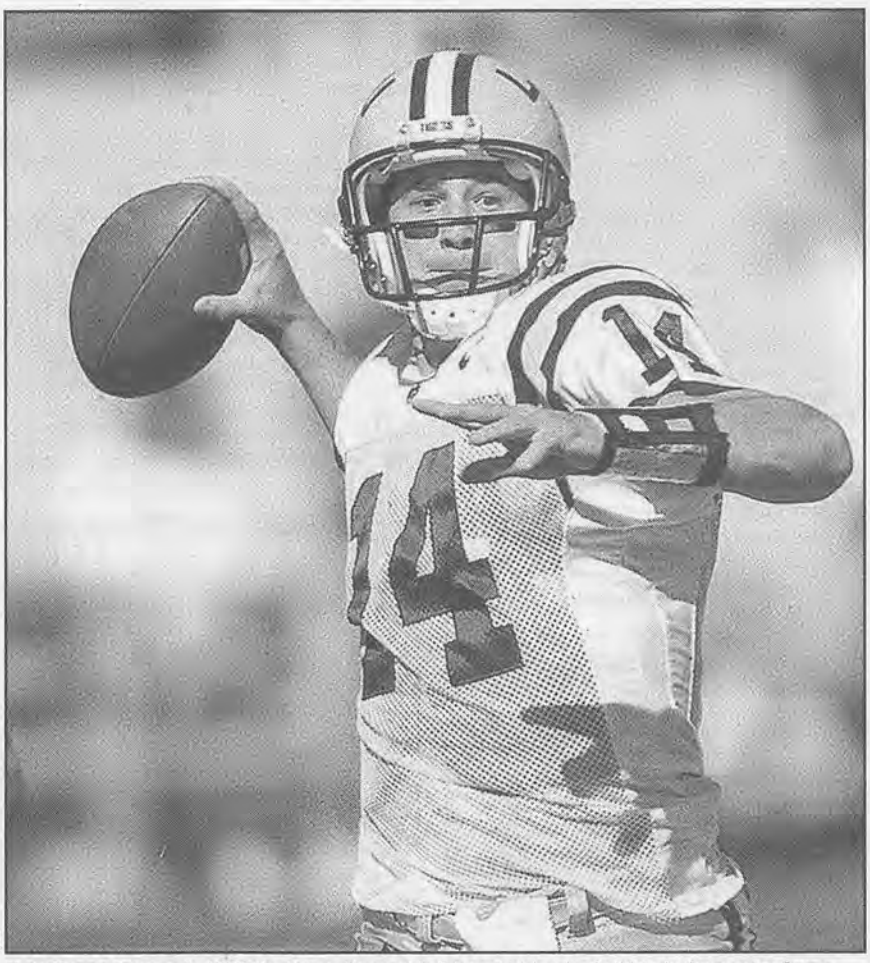
This time a year ago, a good bet for the lead story on SEC football 2000 would have been an assessment of the new coach at Alabama. Who would be the latest brave man to take on the insurmountable challenge of walking in The Bear's shadow?

Of course, there's no new coach at Alabama. The reports of the demise of Mike DuBose were, it turns out, greatly exaggerated. DuBose went from the hot seat to SEC coach of the year. All that off-field mess? Ancient history after DuBose led the Crimson Tide to its first SEC championship since 1992. With 19 starters back, Alabama will be in the hunt for big game again in 2000.

Nobody else in the Western Division, where the gap between finishing second and finishing sixth won't be large, appears capable of keeping the Tide out of the SEC championship game. Their opponent from the East should be revenge-minded Florida, unless this is the year Georgia finally harnesses its considerable talent. Tennessee, fresh from three consecutive Bowl Championship Series appearances, is rebuilding, but don't count the Vols out. Last time they had to replace a quarterback (Peyton Manning), they surprised everybody and won the national championship in 1998.

Ascending: LSU gets a fresh start under new coach Nick Saban. The Tigers have to be better for no other reason than they have too much talent to be as bad as they were last year. Nineteen starters are back from a team that finished 3-8 (1-7 in the SEC). LSU had six SEC All-Freshmen picks last year.

Descending: Tennessee faces major rebuilding, although that doesn't mean the Vols will fall off the map. Coach Phillip Fulmer still has plenty of talent. The Vols might even match last year's 9-3 record, but after three consecutive years of BCS appearances, Tennessee might fall back a notch. Also, Mississippi State will have a tough time matching last year's 10-2 record with only 11 starters returning.



LSU

How times change: *In 1993, Booty was the most ballyhooed high school athlete in the country. Seven years later, he's a 25-year-old college quarterback with a 1-7 career record.*

Dream schedule: Arkansas opens with five home games, three non-conference patsies plus Alabama and Georgia. Western Division rivals Ole Miss and LSU also come to Fayetteville. All told, Arkansas has seven home games, and coach Houston Nutt is 12-0 in home games. If the Razorbacks can split their four road games—South Carolina, Auburn, Tennessee, Mississippi State—a nice bowl trip may loom.

Nightmare schedule: Given that there's not a whole lot else to do in Starkville, the home opener for Mississippi State always is an eagerly-awaited social affair. This year, Bulldogs fans will have to wait until September 30 to tailgate at Scott Field. The Bullies open with three road games and an open date before Florida visits. To avoid coming home 0-3, State will have to win at Memphis, BYU or South Carolina. The Gators replaced Vanderbilt on State's SEC schedule, which is likely to replace a "W" with an "L."

Best matchup: Given the 365-day ramifications, Auburn-Alabama is a candidate in this category any year. This November 18, however, will be extra special. You might want to get out to the I-59 exit ramp to say you witnessed the Auburn bus caravan pull into Tuscaloosa for the first time since 1901. The Crimson Tide has been to Auburn five times since the Tigers pulled their home games back to campus from Birmingham, but this will be the first time Alabama scheduled its home game with Auburn at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Ugliest matchup: Ball State didn't win a game in 1999. Famous alum David Letterman could come up with a pretty good Top 10 list of reasons the Cardinals should *not* open the 2000 season September 2 in The Swamp against Florida.

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
Alabama	5	2	1	1	3	4	1	3	6	5
Arkansas	8	6	2	5	4	8	12	7	10	6
Auburn	9	4	9	9	10	9	4	5	5	8
Florida	3	7	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	2
Georgia	2	3	5	2	2	1	3	2	7	9
Kentucky	7	8	8	8	11	10	6	10	11	7
LSU	11	5	4	10	9	7	11	9	9	10
Mississippi	1	11	6	6	12	6	10	12	2	4
Mississippi St.	4	9	10	7	7	11	9	11	3	3
S. Carolina	12	10	12	12	6	12	7	8	12	12
Tennessee	6	1	7	4	5	3	5	4	4	1
Vanderbilt	10	12	11	11	8	5	8	6	8	11

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-SEC First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Freddie Milons, Alabama	5-11	183	Jr.
WR	Ronney Daniels, Auburn	6-1	204	So.
TE	Randy McMichael, Georgia	6-3	223	So.
T	Kenyatta Walker, Florida	6-5	298	Jr.
T	Terrence Metcalf, Mississippi	6-3	300	Jr.
G	Fred Weary, Tennessee	6-4	301	Jr.
G	Will Cuthbert, Alabama	6-5	329	Sr.
C	Paul Hogan, Alabama	6-4	275	Sr.
QB	Quincy Carter, Georgia	6-3	223	Jr.
RB	Deuce McAllister, Mississippi	6-1	220	Sr.
RB	Cedric Cobbs, Arkansas	6-2	220	So.

Defense

E	Alex Brown, Florida	6-4	265	Jr.
E	Kindal Moorehead, Alabama	6-3	293	Jr.
T	Richard Seymour, Georgia	6-6	295	Sr.
T	Gerard Warren, Florida	6-4	310	Jr.
LB	Jamie Winborn, Vanderbilt	6-0	232	Jr.
LB	Eric Westmoreland, Tennessee	6-0	230	Sr.
LB	Saleem Rasheed, Alabama	6-3	220	So.
CB	Fred Smoot, Mississippi State	6-1	173	Sr.
CB	Bennie Alexander, Florida	5-9	181	Jr.
S	Syniker Taylor, Mississippi	6-0	195	Jr.
S	Pig Prather, Mississippi State	6-3	192	Jr.

Specialists

K	Jeff Chandler, Florida	6-2	217	Sr.
P	David Leaverton, Tennessee	6-4	210	Sr.
KR	Freddie Milons, Alabama	5-11	183	Jr.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Cedrick Wilson, Tennessee	5-10	175	Sr.
WR	Terrence Edwards, Georgia	6-2	175	So.
TE	Elliott Carson, Vanderbilt	6-5	250	Sr.
T	Mike Pearson, Florida	6-7	291	So.
T	Pork Chop Womack, Mississippi St.	6-3	336	Sr.
G	Griff Redmill, Alabama	6-6	301	Sr.
G	Kevin Breedlove, Georgia	6-4	310	So.
C	Zac Zedalis, Florida	6-2	280	Sr.
QB	Romaro Miller, Mississippi	6-1	195	Sr.
RB	Travis Henry, Tennessee	5-11	220	Sr.
RB	Earnest Graham, Florida	5-9	214	So.

Defense

E	Kenny King, Alabama	6-4	270	So.
E	Will Overstreet, Tennessee	6-4	255	Jr.
T	Marcus Stroud, Georgia	6-6	300	Sr.
T	Ellis Wyms, Mississippi State	6-3	272	Sr.
LB	Eddie Strong, Mississippi	6-2	235	Jr.
LB	Quinton Caver, Arkansas	6-5	230	Sr.
LB	Boss Bailey, Georgia	6-3	220	Jr.
CB	Larry Casher, Auburn	5-11	164	Sr.
CB	Andre Lott, Tennessee	5-11	185	Sr.
S	Ryan Clark, LSU	5-11	185	Jr.
S	Marquand Manuel, Florida	6-0	208	Jr.

Specialists

K	Scott Westerfield, Mississippi State	5-10	189	Sr.
P	Damon Duval, Auburn	6-0	175	So.
KR	Leonard Scott, Tennessee	5-11	170	So.

Newcomers of the Year

Offense: Durell Robinson, WR, Georgia
Defense: DeMarco McNeil, T, Auburn

Upset of the year: The last time Tennessee played at Memphis, Tiger fans tore down the goal posts after a 21-17 upset in 1996. Last year in Knoxville, the Vols scored with a minute left to pull out a 17-16 win. So if the Big Orange goes down in Memphis on November 4, will it really be an upset?
Bowl bound: The usual teams—Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Georgia—plus Mississippi and Arkansas. Mississippi State, Kentucky, Auburn and even Vanderbilt have designs on a seventh and possible eighth berth.
Biggest shoes to fill: Alabama's offensive tackle Chris Samuels won the Outland Trophy last year. With Samuels gone, DuBose knew exactly what to do. He moved his next line star, Dante Ellington, from right tackle to the left side. The 6-6, 298-pound Ellington won a starting job as a true freshman. The Tide recruited him out of Leighton, Ala., with the idea he would take over the left side when Samuels left. Now, he has.
Most overrated player: Too much was expected of Josh Booty. Way back in 1993, Booty, who is from Shreveport, La., was the *Parade* magazine national player of the year, overshadowing a fellow Louisiana stud named Peyton Manning. But Booty never took a snap in college until 1999. After five years of baseball in the Florida Marlins' organization, Booty was hailed as a savior when he finally arrived at LSU. His freshman season, however, produced 19 interceptions vs. seven touchdown tosses and a pass-efficiency rating of 90.34. By comparison, teammate Rohan Davey had an efficiency rating of 148.93.
Most underrated: Maybe if Joe Gunn had a cool first name like "Deuce," he would get a little more pub. Gunn, a Mississippi junior, was the second most productive runner in the SEC in 1999, gaining 951 yards and averaging 5.2 per rush. His Ole Miss teammate, Deuce McAllister, also had a nice year, gaining 809 yards and averaging 5.4. McAllister made first-team All-SEC while Gunn was relegated to second-team.
Best coach: You could make a case for Fulmer, who has the nation's best winning

Recruiting RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Brock Berlin	QB	6-1/204	Shreveport, La./Evangel Christian	Florida
2. Casey Clausen	QB	6-4/210	Mission Hills, Calif./Alemany	Tennessee
3. Anthony Bryant	DL	6-4/324	Newbern, Ala./Sunshine	Alabama
4. Lawrence Richardson	CB	5-11/170	Galveston, Texas/Ball	Arkansas
5. Rudi Johnson	RB	5-10/220	Ettrick, Va./Butler County, Kan., CC	Auburn
6. Carlos Andrews	DB	6-0/200	Tallahassee, Fla./Godby	Alabama
7. Kelvin Kight	WR	6-1/180	Lithonia, Ga./Lithonia	Florida
8. Michael Munoz	OL	6-7/285	Cincinnati/Moeller	Tennessee
9. Doug Buckles	OT	6-5/275	Madison, Miss./Central	Mississippi
10. Antonio Hall	OL	6-5/295	Canton, Ohio/McKinley	Kentucky
11. Devery Henderson	RB	6-1/180	Opelousas, La./Opelousas	LSU
12. Antwan Odum	DE	6-7/260	Bayou LaBatre, Ala./Bryant	Alabama
13. Jonathan Colon	OL	6-8/285	Miami/Central	Florida
14. Reggie Vickers	RB	6-0/170	Belle Glade, Fla./Central	Florida
15. Sean Young	OL	6-8/298	Cohutta, Ga./Northwest Whitfield	Tennessee
16. Antonio Hargo	WR	6-4/185	Gautier, Miss./Gautier	Mississippi State
17. Carlton Baker	LB	6-2/215	Belle Glade, Fla./Belle Glade	Arkansas
18. Mac Tyler	DT	6-5/320	Bessemer, Ala./Lanier	Alabama
19. Musa Smith	RB	6-2/210	Elliottsburg, Pa./West Perry	Georgia
20. Robert Peace	LB	6-3/235	Ruston, La./Ruston	LSU
21. Marcus White	DL	6-3/270	Theodore, Ala/Theodore	Auburn
22. Cory Bailey	CB	6-0/180	Hialeah, Fla./American	Florida
23. Jeremy Caudill	DT	6-3/300	Martin, Ky./Prestonburg	Kentucky
24. Adrian Mayes	DB	6-2/208	Houston/Forest Brook	LSU
25. Jason Young	OL	6-7/285	St. Mary's, Ohio/St. Mary's	Mississippi
26. Willie Green	RB	5-9/200	Kissimmee, Fla./Osceola	Florida
27. Ronald Fields	DL	6-3/293	Bogalusa, La./Bogalusa	Mississippi State
28. Dre Fulgham	WR	6-3/200	Montevallo, Ala./Montevallo	Alabama
29. O.J. Owens	DB	6-1/195	New London, N.C./North Stanley	Tennessee
30. Carlos Perez	WR	6-0/190	Hoboken, N.J./Hoboken	Florida
31. Jason Clark	LB	6-2/230	Starkville, Miss./Starkville	Mississippi State
32. Chris Collins	WR	6-2/190	Amite County, Miss./Amite County	Mississippi
33. Karlton Neal	LB	6-4/235	Chicago/Morgan Park	Tennessee
34. Albert Hollis II	RB	5-11/210	Sacramento, Calif./Christian Brothers	Georgia
35. Dwayne Robertson	DT	6-3/308	Memphis, Tenn./Melrose	Kentucky
36. Sam Breeden	WR	6-4/220	Hamlet, N.C./Butler County (Kan.) CC	Arkansas
37. Jason Rawls	LB	6-1/212	Statesboro, Ga./Statesboro	Alabama
38. Darron Parquet	RB	6-0/205	Metairie, La./Metairie	LSU
39. Phillip Yost	K	6-1/180	Auburn, Ala./Auburn	Auburn
40. Chris Young	WR	6-2/185	Batesville, Miss./South Panola	Vanderbilt

RANKING the CLASSES

1. Florida	4. Auburn	7. Georgia	10. Mississippi
2. Tennessee	5. Arkansas	8. LSU	11. South Carolina
3. Alabama	6. Mississippi St.	9. Kentucky	12. Vanderbilt

percentage (.844) among active coaches. You could argue that Jackie Sherrill keeps piling up wins at Mississippi State with a smaller budget and smaller facilities than most SEC rivals. But if Steve Spurrier isn't the best coach in the SEC, history is a liar. Florida's assets–its recruiting base, weather, facilities, fan support, etc.,–always had been available. But somehow the Gators never managed to win an SEC championship until Spurrier arrived and applied his offensive genius. Under Spurrier, Florida has won five SEC titles in 10 years.

Best staff: Arkansas coach Houston Nutt deserves credit for improving an already good staff in the offseason. Nutt made two hires that should help keep the Razorbacks' defense ornery. Nobody enjoyed playing against coordinator John Thompson's defenses at Southern Mississippi or Memphis. Thompson jumped to LSU's new staff, but stayed only a month before becoming co-defensive coordinator with Bobby Allen at Arkansas. Nutt also hired defensive line coach Bill Johnson from Texas A&M. Veteran Mike Markuson did a nice job rebuilding the Hogs' offensive line last year, and Fitz Hill always has solid receivers. Nutt, who serves as his own offensive coordinator, promoted Hill, who doubles as recruiting coordinator, to assistant head coach to keep him on board.

Coach on the hot seat: Lou Holtz rode into South Carolina on a red carpet. He brought instant credibility and national publicity to a downtrodden program. It's not that the Gamecocks' legions of loyal fans have turned, but last year's 0-11 record was worse than even the worst-case scenario. Holtz needs to win a few this year. His resume and PR savvy provided a heat shield from most of the barbs a winless first-year coach normally would receive, but another hapless campaign will make Holtz, 63, fair game for second-guessers.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Not far: *Tennessee may slip a bit, but it won't be much with players like Cedrick Wilson around.*

Best bets: Barring injury, Vanderbilt's Jamie Winborn will lead the SEC in tackles for the third year in a row. … Holtz will get his first win at South Carolina when New Mexico State visits for the season opener September 2. … Florida will be averaging 60 points a game heading into the September 16 showdown at Tennessee. … Alabama will spoil Houston Nutt's perfect home record September 23. … Kentucky will be the run-away leader in fourth-down conversions. Hal Mumme still hates to punt. … Of several hotshot freshmen quarterbacks coming into the league, Tennessee's Casey Clausen will have the biggest impact.

Odds and ends: There was a stench in Athens, Ga., this spring and not just resulting from the messy ouster of first-year defensive coordinator Kevin Ramsey. Sewage leaking under the surface of Sanford Stadium forced the Bulldogs to cancel the annual G-Day spring game so expensive repairs could be made to get the field ready for the 2000 season. As for Ramsey, he was dumped after signing day in what has been described as a "heated" confrontation with coach Jim Donnan. The new defensive coordinator is Donnan's old Oklahoma colleague, Gary Gibbs, who had been out of coaching since 1994. … The big house is bigger. Neyland Stadium in Knoxville has grown from 102,854 seats to around 104,000 thanks to a second set of luxury suites built atop the east side upper deck. LSU is thinking bigger, too. At an expanded 91,600 seats, Tiger Stadium becomes the fourth-largest on-campus facility in the nation. … Tee Martin is the latest Knoxville hero to have a street named after him. Others such honorees include Manning, Fulmer and Chamique Holdsclaw. … Two Alabama transfers have resurfaced, each at their home-state school, after sitting out last year. Eric Locke should jazz up the receiving corps at Tennessee, and Travis Carroll is in a crowd of linebackers at Florida. … You don't want to get in a brawl around Kentucky defensive end Grayson Smith. He made it to the national collegiate boxing championships last spring.

SEC IN A NUTSHELL

PROJECTED CHAMPION: Alabama

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Florida EAST	Consistency needed from quarterback spot. Young linebackers have to fulfill potential.	RB Earnest Graham T Kenyatta Walker	E Alex Brown NT Gerard Warren	Nov. 18 at Florida State Sept. 16 at Tennessee
2. Tennessee	Lack of experience on line and at quarterback. Secondary has to develop.	WR Cedrick Wilson RB Travis Henry	LB Eric Westmoreland E Will Overstreet	Sept. 2 vs. Southern Miss Sept. 16 vs. Florida
3. Georgia	Game-breaking running back must emerge. Veteran secondary needs to improve.	QB Quincy Carter WR Terrence Edwards	T Richard Seymour T Marcus Stroud	Nov. 25 vs. Georgia Tech Oct. 7 vs. Tennessee
4. Kentucky	Line must jell, and go-to wideout must emerge. Rebuilding line must be tough vs. the run.	QB Dusty Bonner RB Derek Homer	E Dennis Johnson CB Eric Kelly	Sept. 2 at Louisville Sept. 30 at Mississippi
5. Vanderbilt	Need to develop receiving corps. Deep line has to be sturdy to help secondary.	RB Rodney Williams TE Elliott Carson	LB Jamie Winborn NT Ryan Aulds	Oct. 7 at Wake Forest Nov. 11 at Kentucky
6. South Carolina	Quarterback spot must stabilize. Playmakers needed at linebacker.	WR Jermale Kelly RB Derek Watson	NG Cleveland Pinkney LB Kalimba Edwards	Nov. 18 at Clemson Oct. 7 at Kentucky
1. Alabama WEST	Running back needed with Shaun Alexander gone. Strong unit must continue to mature.	WR Freddie Milons QB Andrew Zow	E Kindal Moorehead LB Saleem Rasheed	Sept. 2 at UCLA Oct. 21 at Tennessee
2. Mississippi	Searching for wideouts and two starting tackles. Line is young, and secondary suffered key losses.	T Terrence Metcalf RB Deuce McAllister	LB Eddie Strong FS Syniker Taylor	Sept. 2 vs. Tulane Oct. 14 at Alabama
3. Arkansas	Quarterbacks lack experience. Secondary is young and interior line is small.	RB Cedric Cobbs WR Boo Williams	LB Quinton Caver E Randy Garner	Sept. 16 vs. Boise State Sept. 23 vs. Alabama
4. LSU	Quarterback and running back slots must settle. Pass coverage and rush have to improve.	WR Jerel Myers T Louis Williams	LB Trev Faulk FS Ryan Clark	Sept. 9 vs. Houston Sept. 16 at Auburn
5. Auburn	Looking for a consistent ground attack. Rebuilding line will lack depth.	WR Ronney Daniels QB Ben Leard	CB Larry Casher LB Rob Pate	Aug. 31 vs. Wyoming Sept. 9 at Mississippi
6. Mississippi State	Need to develop receivers. Line, which lacks depth, must be rebuilt.	T Pork Chop Womack K Scott Westerfield	CB Fred Smoot S Pig Prather	Sept. 16 at BYU Oct. 7 vs. Auburn

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Players of the Year

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

DEFENSE

Freddie Milons, WR, Alabama

Crazy as it sounds, the best thing that may have happened to Alabama and Freddie Milons last season was the Crimson Tide's 29-28 loss to Louisiana Tech in the third game. That upset forced Alabama to stop depending on tailback Shaun Alexander to carry the offense. Consequently, the speedy Milons received a chance to show what he could do en route to helping the school to its first SEC championship since 1992.

Milons, a 5-11, 183-pound junior who played quarterback in high school, proceeded to set a school record with 65 receptions for 733 yards and two touchdowns. As the season progressed, he began taking snaps at quarterback. He didn't stop there, also running back two punts for touchdowns. He averaged 9.7 yards per punt return and 21.5 on kickoff returns.

"In this offense, there's no limit," says Milons, who hit 3-of-4 passes for 81 yards and a score and ran 15 times for 178 yards.

With Alexander gone, the Tide figures to get the ball to Milons even more ways this season.

"We can get some mismatches on the defense because we'll have him at receiver one play, at quarterback one play and then motioning out the backfield one play, doing all kinds of different things," says quarterbacks coach Charlie Stubbs, who calls the plays. "We believe when he's back there, if he doesn't have an open receiver, he can still beat those defenders with his legs.

"As long as we get the ball in Freddie's hands, we know we've got a high chance to have a successful play." —*Bob Holt*

SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN

DEFENSE

Alex Brown, E, Florida

When Alex Brown was good last season—like in the victory over Tennessee—he was very good, almost unblockable. Jon Hoke, Florida's defensive coordinator, says Brown's challenge this season is to be very good on a consistent basis.

"He was up and down last year," Hoke says of Brown, a junior. "Some of that's because he's a young guy. He just has to continue to play with a lot more consistency on a down-to-down basis."

Brown, who paced Florida with 18 tackles for losses, is one of nine starters back on what should be an improved defense. The Gators enter the season looking to atone for a poor finish in which they gave up a combined 101 points in season-ending losses to Florida State, Alabama and Michigan State (in the Citrus Bowl). Brown (6-4, 265) can do his part by playing the run better, but there's no doubt about his ability to disrupt a passing game.

Brown had 13 sacks in '99, breaking Huey Richardson's school record. Five of them came in the crucial win over Tennessee, a game in which he also intercepted a pass and knocked down two others.

"Our biggest thing," says Hoke, "is to continue to find ways to get him in one-on-one matchups. Later in the year, people started double-teaming him, sliding protection and using a running back to chip on him. We've got to find ways to take that away from people. If we blitz a linebacker, it forces the running back to pick up the 'backer and gets Alex one-on-one with the offensive tackle. We think we have a chance at success in that situation." —*Mike Strange*

SOUTHEASTERN

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Shaun Alexander, Alabama, Sr.	11	302	1,383	4.6	19	125.7
2. Joe Gunn, Mississippi, So.	**11**	**182**	**951**	**5.2**	**5**	**86.5**
3. Jamal Lewis, Tennessee, Jr.	10	182	816	4.5	7	81.6
4. Jasper Sanks, Georgia, So.	**11**	**177**	**896**	**5.1**	**6**	**81.5**
5. Deuce McAllister, Mississippi, Jr.	**10**	**151**	**809**	**5.4**	**12**	**80.9**
6. Earnest Graham, Florida, Fr.	**9**	**117**	**654**	**5.6**	**5**	**72.7**
7. Travis Henry, Tennessee, Jr.	**11**	**125**	**790**	**6.3**	**8**	**71.8**
8. Cedric Cobbs, Arkansas, Fr.	**11**	**116**	**668**	**5.8**	**3**	**60.7**
9. Rodney Williams, Vanderbilt, So.	**11**	**148**	**644**	**4.4**	**8**	**58.6**
10. Rondell Mealey, LSU, Sr.	11	170	637	3.7	8	57.9

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Rohan Davey, LSU, So.	**9**	**52**	**31**	**.596**	**4**	**491**	**9.4**	**4**	**148.9**
2. Dusty Bonner, Kentucky, So.	**11**	**465**	**303**	**.652**	**13**	**3,266**	**7.0**	**26**	**137.0**
3. Mikal Goodman, S. Carolina, Fr.	**11**	**65**	**32**	**.492**	**1**	**572**	**8.8**	**3**	**135.3**
4. Doug Johnson, Florida, Sr.	11	337	190	.564	13	2,574	7.6	20	132.4
5. Clint Stoerner, Arkansas, Sr.	11	317	177	.558	10	2,293	7.2	19	130.1
6. Romaro Miller, Mississippi, Jr.	**11**	**270**	**147**	**.544**	**7**	**1,999**	**7.4**	**14**	**128.6**
7. Quincy Carter, Georgia, So.	**11**	**380**	**216**	**.568**	**6**	**2,713**	**7.1**	**17**	**128.4**
8. Tee Martin, Tennessee, Sr.	11	305	165	.541	9	2,317	7.6	12	125.0
9. Andrew Zow, Alabama, So.	**11**	**264**	**148**	**.561**	**9**	**1,799**	**6.8**	**12**	**121.5**
10. Wayne Madkin, Miss. St., So.	**11**	**257**	**135**	**.525**	**11**	**1,884**	**7.3**	**10**	**118.4**

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. James Whalen, Kentucky, Sr.	11	90	1,019	10	8.2	11.3
2. Jerel Myers, LSU, Fr.	**11**	**64**	**854**	**2**	**5.8**	**13.3**
3. Darrell Jackson, Florida, Jr.	12	67	1,156	9	5.6	17.3
4. Freddie Milons, Alabama, So.	**12**	**65**	**733**	**2**	**5.4**	**11.3**
5. Cedrick Wilson, Tennessee, Jr.	**11**	**57**	**827**	**4**	**5.2**	**14.5**
6. Ronney Daniels, Auburn, Fr.	**11**	**56**	**1,068**	**9**	**5.1**	**19.1**
7. Anthony White, Kentucky, Sr.	11	56	469	3	5.1	8.4
8. Tavarus Hogans, Vanderbilt, Sr.	11	53	837	1	4.8	15.8
9. Terrence Edwards, Georgia, Fr.	**11**	**53**	**772**	**9**	**4.8**	**14.6**
10. Cory Peterson, Mississippi, Sr.	11	46	610	4	4.2	13.3

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Tennessee (20)	191.3
2. Mississippi (25)	182.5
3. Alabama (28)	178.8
4. Georgia (43)	159.0
5. Florida (65)	144.1
6. Arkansas (72)	135.5
7. Vanderbilt (88)	115.5
8. Mississippi St. (98)	102.6
9. South Carolina (105)	89.7
10. LSU (108)	82.5
11. Kentucky (110)	75.5
12. Auburn (112)	68.0

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Kentucky (13)	299.0
2. Florida (20)	263.8
3. Georgia (23)	257.0
4. Arkansas (37)	234.2
5. Auburn (46)	226.6
6. Mississippi St. (48)	221.2
7. LSU (49)	219.3
8. Tennessee (56)	214.9
9. Vanderbilt (69)	202.0
10. Alabama (71)	198.2
11. Mississippi (77)	185.9
12. South Carolina (103)	138.9

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Georgia (23)	416.0
2. Florida (30)	407.9
3. Tennessee (33)	406.2
4. Alabama (52)	376.9
5. Kentucky (56)	374.5
6. Arkansas (61)	369.7
7. Mississippi (64)	368.5
8. Mississippi St. (88)	323.8
9. Vanderbilt (90)	317.5
10. LSU (96)	301.7
11. Auburn (100)	294.6
12. South Carolina (114)	228.6

Defense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Mississippi St. (1)	66.9
2. Alabama (2)	75.3
3. Mississippi (4)	76.9
4. Tennessee (7)	89.6
5. Florida (9)	91.6
6. Arkansas (12)	100.8
7. Auburn (15)	103.0
8. Georgia (16)	104.5
9. Vanderbilt (44)	135.5
10. South Carolina (57)	146.2
11. Kentucky (59)	148.5
12. LSU (65)	152.2

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. Mississippi St. (4)	93.3
2. LSU (19)	107.0
3. Florida (27)	110.2
4. Arkansas (35)	112.5
5. Tennessee (36)	112.7
6. Auburn (45)	114.8
7. Alabama (47)	114.9
8. Kentucky (49)	115.1
9. Mississippi (55)	117.9
10. Georgia (66)	123.1
11. South Carolina (73)	125.2
12. Vanderbilt (77)	126.5

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Mississippi St. (1)	222.5
2. Alabama (9)	297.3
3. Tennessee (11)	297.7
4. Arkansas (17)	303.3
5. South Carolina (20)	307.7
6. Vanderbilt (24)	315.5
7. Mississippi (28)	325.4
8. Florida (30)	332.2
9. LSU (42)	349.2
10. Auburn (55)	363.5
11. Kentucky (60)	373.7
12. Georgia (73)	382.6

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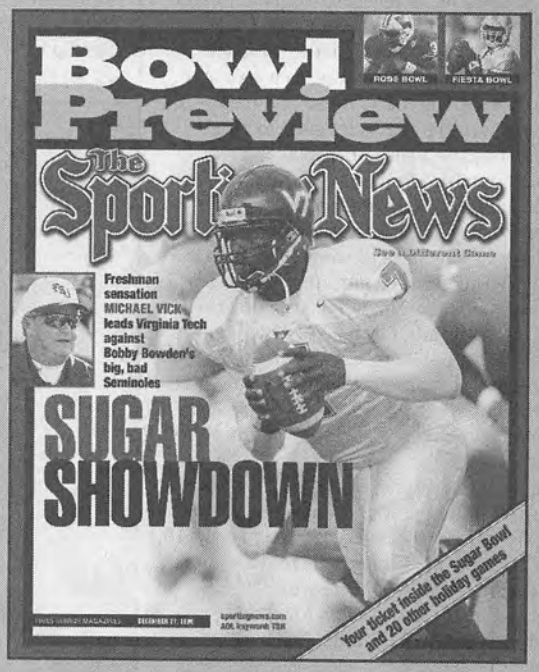

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1 Florida

NATIONAL RANK 8

Coach: Steve Spurrier (102-22-1, 10 years; 122-35-2 overall, 13 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Spurrier (11th season)
Defensive coordinator: Jon Hoke (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 56
Site: Gainesville, Fla.
Stadium: Florida Field (grass, 83,000)
Last league title won: 1996
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1990
1999 TSN rank: 11
1999 record: 9-4 (lost to Michigan State in Citrus Bowl). SEC East: 7-1/1st

1999 Results

W. Michigan, W, 55-26
Central Florida, W, 58-27
Tennessee, W, 23-21
at Kentucky, W, 38-10
Alabama, L, 40-39 OT
at LSU, W, 31-10
at Auburn, W, 32-14
Georgia, W, 30-14
Vanderbilt, W, 13-6
at S. Carolina, W, 20-3
Florida State, L, 30-23
Alabama, L, 34-7
Michigan State, L, 37-34

Schedule

S2—Ball State
S9—Middle Tennessee St.
S16—at Tennessee
S23—Kentucky
S30—at Mississippi State
O7—LSU
O14—Auburn
O28—Georgia*
N4—at Vanderbilt
N11—South Carolina
N18—at Florida State
*at Jacksonville, Fla.

Offensive philosophy: Steve Spurrier is renowned for his passing game, but the run is still an integral part of the "Fun 'N' Gun." Last year, the running game improved while the passing game waned. Florida relies on its receiving corps to spread the field. Timing routes are the backbone. Quarterbacks are trained to throw to a spot and the receiver better get there. The bread-and-butter running play has been the draw, designed to either take advantage of the pass rush or to slow it down. Florida has a deep stable of tailbacks and a receiving corps that's longer on potential than production.

Offensive stars: In Kenyatta Walker and Mike Pearson, Florida has a pair of huge tackles who will play in the NFL. Receivers Reche Caldwell and Alex Willis step into the void created when Travis Taylor and Darrell Jackson opted to leave early for the NFL. Both appear destined to put up big numbers. Earnest Graham is Florida's most physical runner since Emmitt Smith. Bo Carroll has sprinter's speed, Chuck Marks looked terrific in the spring and Robert Gillespie might move to receiver to get on the field.

Offensive concerns: Jesse Palmer is the heir apparent to departed Doug Johnson, but it's no sure thing. Palmer has started seven career games but completed only 46 percent of his attempts in '99. Redshirt freshman Rex Grossman made a push with a solid spring. High school phenom Brock Berlin enrolled for spring practice and eventually will be the starter, but perhaps later rather than sooner. If Zac Zedalis is healthy at center, fine, but the guard slots are to be determined. Thomas Moody has moved from defense to help. Lack of depth dictates that true freshmen Jonathan Colon and Max Starks must go to war. The Gators also need receivers Ian Skinner and Taylor Jacobs to step up.

Defensive philosophy: Jon Hoke returns for his second season as coordinator with the added title of assistant head coach, so Spurrier must have been somewhat impressed with what he saw in '99. Hoke, who has 10 returning starters to work with, didn't radically depart from predecessor Bob Stoops' philosophy but believes a defense should be as unpredictable as possible with regard to when—and from where—it brings pressure. The Gators have the athleticism and depth to force the issue.

Defensive stars: The only thing standing between end Alex Brown and greatness is consistency. Brown has taken over some games and taken off plays in others. Gerard Warren and Derrick Chambers are run stoppers at tackle, and Andra Davis emerged as a top-flight middle linebacker in '99. The secondary is loaded. Starters Robert Cromartie, Bennie Alexander and Marquand Manuel are fighting to keep their jobs from the likes of Lito Sheppard, Marquis Westbrook and spring standout Todd Johnson. FS Daryl Dixon could be All-SEC.

Defensive concerns: There aren't many. Depth and experience have improved. Starting LBs Eugene McCaslin and Keith Kelsey are gone. Marcus Oquendo-Johnson and Mike Nattiel are positioned to step in, but don't count out transfers Travis Carroll and Kennard Ellis or youngsters Byron Hardmon and Matt Farrior.

Special teams: K Jeff Chandler gives Spurrier reason to go for three. Chandler made 21-of-24 field-goal attempts in '99 and was perfect inside 40 yards. P Alan Rhine is back. The Gators have a dangerous return man in Carroll.

SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN

Comin' at ya: *Warren, a second-team All-SEC pick, led the Gators with 19 quarterback hurries and was second in tackles behind the line (13).*

Head coach: Spurrier enters 2000 hungry because the Gators ended '99 on a three-game losing streak. About the only criticism of Spurrier is that he's so demanding of his quarterbacks. Florida has been fortunate to keep Spurrier. Credit A.D. Jeremy Foley and the fact Spurrier loves his alma mater.

Schedule: This is the tough road year in Florida's rotation; the Gators visit Tennessee and Florida State. The home schedule is blah.

Bottom line: Florida is coming off a four-loss season for the first time since 1992. If a quarterback comes through, the Gators will regain their form.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Reche Caldwell	6-0	199	So.	Taylor Jacobs	6-0	182	So.
T	**Mike Pearson**	**6-7**	**291**	**So.**	David Kearley	6-4	291	So.
G	Leon Hires	6-4	283	Sr.	Tommy Hillard	6-3	282	Jr.
C	Zac Zedalis	6-2	280	Sr.	David Jorgensen	6-4	284	So.
G	Erik Strange	6-4	287	Jr.	Thomas Moody	6-3	302	Jr.
T	**Kenyatta Walker**	**6-5**	**298**	**Jr.**	Aaron Deal	6-6	313	So.
TE	Kirk Wells	6-4	208	So.	Aaron Walker	6-6	240	So.
WR	Alex Willis	6-0	185	Sr.	Brian Haugabrook	6-2	203	Jr.
QB	Jesse Palmer	6-2	225	Sr.	*Rex Grossman	6-1	216	Fr.
RB	**Earnest Graham**	**5-9**	**214**	**So.**	Robert Gillespie	5-9	188	Jr.
FB	Rod Frazier	5-11	255	Sr.	**Rob Roberts**	**6-2**	**249**	**Jr.**

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Tron LaFavor	6-2	260	So.	Thaddeus Bullard	6-4	253	Sr.
NT	**Gerard Warren**	**6-4**	**310**	**Jr.**	Arpedge Rolle	6-1	258	So.
T	**Buck Gurley**	**6-2**	**285**	**Sr.**	**Derrick Chambers**	**6-4**	**305**	**Sr.**
E	**Alex Brown**	**6-4**	**265**	**Jr.**	*Bobby McCray	6-6	300	Fr.
OLB	Matt Farrior	6-2	228	Fr.	Daryl Owens	5-10	225	Sr.
MLB	**Andra Davis**	**6-1**	**250**	**Jr.**	Travis Carroll	6-4	243	Jr.
OLB	M. Oquendo-Johnson	6-4	212	So.	Byron Hardmon	6-1	229	So.
CB	**Bennie Alexander**	**5-9**	**181**	**Jr.**	Marquis Westbrook	5-9	181	So.
SS	**Marquand Manuel**	**6-0**	**208**	**Jr.**	Todd Johnson	6-1	191	So.
FS	**Daryl Dixon**	**5-10**	**199**	**So.**	**Lester Norwood**	**6-2**	**199**	**Jr.**
CB	**Robert Cromartie**	**5-8**	**185**	**Jr.**	Lito Sheppard	5-10	196	So.

Special Teams

K	**Jeff Chandler**	6-2	217	Sr.	P	**Alan Rhine**	5-11	192	Sr.

2 Tennessee

NATIONAL RANK 10

Coach: Phillip Fulmer (76-14, 8 years)
Offensive coordinator: Randy Sanders (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: John Chavis (6th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 23
Lettermen returning: 48
Site: Knoxville, Tenn.
Stadium: Neyland (grass, 104,000)
Last league title won: 1998
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1988
1999 TSN rank: 9
1999 record: 9-3 (lost to Nebraska in Fiesta Bowl). SEC East: 6-2/2nd

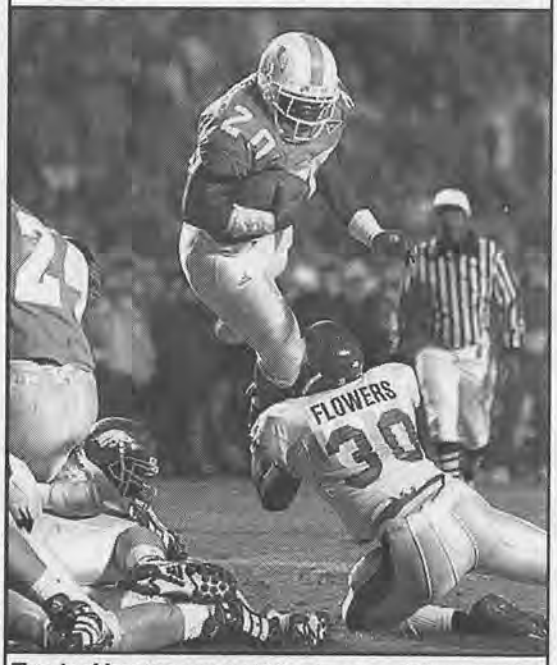
1999 Results

Wyoming, W, 42-17
at Florida, L, 23-21
Memphis, W, 17-16
Auburn, W, 24-0
Georgia, W, 37-20
at Alabama, W, 21-7
South Carolina, W, 30-7
Notre Dame, W, 38-14
at Arkansas, L, 28-24
at Kentucky, W, 56-21
Vanderbilt, W, 38-10
Nebraska, L, 31-21

Schedule

S2—Southern Miss
S16—Florida
S23—Louisiana-Monroe
S30—at LSU
O7—at Georgia
O21—Alabama
O28—at South Carolina
N4—at Memphis
N11—Arkansas
N18—Kentucky
N25—at Vanderbilt

Offensive philosophy: Balance has been a standard for years, the pass-heavy Peyton Manning seasons being an exception. The past two years under Tee Martin were more typical, but Martin is gone. Phillip Fulmer believes in physical football and will try to establish the run. If successful, that takes the pressure off a green quarterback and allows the Vols to pass when they want to. The line is the key, but it didn't show the dominance expected last year and returns only one starter, G Fred Weary. Helping with the blocking are the fullback and tight end, who rarely touch the ball. With depth at receiver, the Vols will show more three- and four-receiver sets.
Offensive stars: TB Travis Henry was efficient in 1999 and showed surprising speed. Coming off a redshirt year, TB Travis Stephens is a proven commodity. Jamal Lewis, who left a year early for the NFL, won't be missed. WR Cedrick Wilson (57 catches) returns, and Donte' Stallworth (23 catches) is a second established target. Alabama transfer Eric Locke could get snaps at receiver, tailback and quarterback.
Offensive concerns: Who's the quarterback? Sophomore Joey Mathews is the favorite. But as far as game-management, Mathews lacks much of an edge. Blue-chip true freshmen Casey Clausen and John Rattay helped their cause by enrolling for spring practice. Clausen, in particular, is a threat to unseat Mathews. Of more concern is the line, which will have four new starters. Ts Reggie Coleman and Will Ofenheusle look like sure things, but C Greg Barnum surprised coaches by deciding to transfer. Signee Michael Munoz, son of Anthony, will get a chance to play early.
Defensive philosophy: Coordinator John Chavis believes you stop the run first, and his units have been successful. Chavis also has been blessed with the athletes to rush the passer and play man coverage. This year is no exception, although there are a number of new faces. The Vols think speed is paramount, which is why starting linebackers Eric Westmoreland and Dominique Stevenson are former tailbacks.
Defensive stars: There are more potential stars than established ones. DE Will Overstreet and Westmoreland should be All-SEC. John Henderson may become the Vols' best tackle since Reggie White.
Defensive concerns: Three-fourths of the secondary is gone, including stud FS Deon Grant. The Vols are counting on Teddy Gaines and/or Willie Miles to step in for Dwayne Goodrich at one corner and be able to survive in man coverage opposite Andre Lott. Up front, someone needs to take Darwin Walker's place as an anchor against the run. Don't be surprised to see converted TE Ed Kendrick beat out Albert Haynesworth at tackle. Take away Goodrich, Grant, LB Raynoch Thompson and E Shaun Ellis, and that's four big-time playmakers.
Special teams: P David Leaverton has the leg to be a field-position weapon. The field-goal job is up for grabs, with Alex Walls the incumbent and LSU transfer Christian Chauvin the challenger. The return game has explosive potential. Locke joins track sprinter Leonard Scott and daredevil punt returner Eric Parker.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Time to shine: *Henry averaged 6.3 yards per carry last season and actually had more 100-yard games (three) than starts (two).*

Head coach: Winning the '98 national championship got Fulmer out of Steve Spurrier's shadow and brought the respect due a man with the best winning percentage (.850) among active coaches. Fulmer can recruit and coach. He also inspires staff loyalty.
Schedule: Southern Miss is a tough opener for a team filling so many holes. Three of the four toughest SEC games (Florida, Alabama and Arkansas) are in Knoxville, with the exception being Georgia. LSU (away) rotates onto the schedule, replacing Auburn.
Bottom line: The Vols bristle at speculation of a drop-off, but Tennessee could lose three regular-season games for the first time since '94. The Outback Bowl wouldn't be a bad destination for a team that lost three players early to the NFL.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Cedrick Wilson**	**5-10**	**175**	**Sr.**	Eric Parker	6-0	172	Jr.
T	Reggie Coleman	6-5	315	Jr.	*Brandon Pruitt	6-4	315	Fr.
G	**Fred Weary**	**6-4**	**301**	**Jr.**	*Scott Wells	6-2	287	Fr.
C	Toby Champion	6-4	310	Sr	*Scott Wells	6-2	287	Fr.
G	Bernard Gooden	6-3	315	Sr.	*Terriea Smalls	6-3	318	Fr
T	Will Ofenheusle	6-8	315	So.	*Zack Davis	6-2	285	Fr.
TE	Neil Johnson	6-4	255	Sr.	**John Finlayson**	**6-4**	**275**	**Jr.**
WR	**David Martin**	**6-4**	**215**	**Sr.**	Donte' Stallworth	6-1	190	So.
QB	Joey Mathews	6-3	215	So.	*A.J. Suggs	6-4	220	Fr.
RB	**Travis Henry**	**5-11**	**220**	**Sr.**	Travis Stephens	5-9	190	Jr.
FB	Will Bartholomew	6-0	232	Jr.	*Troy Fleming	6-2	217	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Bernard Jackson	6-4	255	Jr.	Omari Hand	6-5	250	So.
T	**John Henderson**	**6-7**	**290**	**Jr.**	Edward Kendrick	6-4	265	So.
T	Albert Haynesworth	6-6	310	So.	Rashad Moore	6-4	290	So.
E	**Will Overstreet**	**6-4**	**255**	**Jr.**	DeAngelo Lloyd	6-5	265	Sr.
OLB	**Eric Westmoreland**	**6-0**	**230**	**Sr.**	Eddie Moore	6-0	210	So.
MLB	**D. Stevenson**	**6-0**	**220**	**Sr.**	Keyon Whiteside	6-2	230	So.
OLB	Anthony Sessions	6-1	215	Sr.	Andre James	6-2	218	Jr.
CB	Teddy Gaines	6-0	165	Jr.	Willie Miles	6-0	175	Jr.
SS	Steven Marsh	6-0	180	So.	Buck Fitzgerald	5-9	180	Jr.
FS	Tad Golden	6-1	190	Jr.	*Sterling Kazee	6-2	180	Fr.
CB	**Andre Lott**	**5-11**	**185**	**Sr.**	Charles Small	6-0	185	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Alex Walls**	**6-1**	**175**	**So.**	**P**	**David Leaverton**	**6-4**	**210**	**Sr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

3 Georgia

NATIONAL RANK 11

Coach: Jim Donnan (32-15, 4 years; 96-36 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Jim Donnan (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Gary Gibbs (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 5
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 56
Site: Athens, Ga.
Stadium: Sanford (grass, 86,117)
Last league title won: 1982
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 14
1999 record: 8-4 (beat Purdue in Outback Bowl). SEC East: 5-3/3rd

1999 Results

Utah State, W, 38-7
South Carolina, W, 24-9
Central Florida, W, 24-23
LSU, W, 23-22
at Tennessee, L, 37-20
at Vanderbilt, W, 27-17
Kentucky, W, 49-34
Florida, L, 30-14
Auburn, L, 38-21
at Mississippi, W, 20-17
at Ga. Tech, L, 51-48 OT
Purdue, W, 28-25 OT

Schedule

S2—Georgia Southern
S9—at South Carolina
S23—New Mexico State
S30—at Arkansas
O7—Tennessee
O14—Vanderbilt
O21—at Kentucky
O28—Florida*
N11—at Auburn
N18—Mississippi
N25—Georgia Tech
*at Jacksonville, Fla.

Offensive philosophy: With athletic Quincy Carter back for his third season at quarterback, Georgia could have the most potent attack in the SEC. Terrence Edwards had 53 catches as a freshman and will be joined by Durell Robinson and Reggie Brown, two blue-chip signees who were ineligible last season. Coach Jim Donnan is among the minority of SEC coaches who use tight ends as featured targets. TEs Randy McMichael and Jevaris Johnson form an awesome duo. Donnan knows you have to mix in some run to be successful, and that's where Jasper Sanks comes in. After a freshman season that was a bust in '98, Sanks got rolling last fall.

Offensive stars: Carter has all the tools. His throwing judgment improved last fall, and his 255 yards rushing ranked No. 2 on the team. Edwards has established himself as Carter's favorite target and should have fewer drops. Judging from spring practice, newcomer Robinson is the real deal. Linemen Jon Stinchcomb and Kevin Breedlove are young studs.

Offensive concerns: The Bulldogs led the SEC in total yardage (416 ypg) but ranked sixth in scoring (28 ppg). That disparity reflects red-zone breakdowns, and that's an area Donnan has targeted for improvement. One of the culprits was that four new starters were getting significant snaps in the line. A running back needs to emerge to complement Sanks, and redshirt freshman Bruce Thornton may be the man.

Defensive philosophy: Former Oklahoma coach Gary Gibbs came out of retirement to become Georgia's third coordinator in three years. He spent the spring evaluating personnel rather than installing new schemes. Ten starters are back from a unit that underachieved in '99 under Kevin Ramsey, a first-year coordinator who got the boot. Gibbs will go with a 4-3 alignment and rely on a deep and talented group of linebackers to make plays. Under Gibbs, Georgia will try to maintain its aggressiveness but be more fundamentally sound in coverage.

Defensive stars: Georgia thinks it has two All-Americans in Ts Richard Seymour and Marcus Stroud. Charles Grant combines strength and speed to make for a potential star at end. Boss Bailey and Kendrell Bell are terrific linebackers. Bell burst into the starting lineup at midseason in '99. Will Witherspoon will flank Bell. CBs Jamie Henderson and Cory Robinson are ballhawks.

Defensive concerns: Georgia ranked last in the SEC in total defense (382 yards) and pass defense (278 yards) and 11th in scoring defense (25.9 points) last season. Donnan hopes changing coordinators fixes the problem. The only starter not returning is LB Orantes Grant, and there are many candidates to fill his spot.

Special teams: The punting was mediocre, and the kickoff returns provided little boost. Bell blocked kicks last fall. Reliable K Hap Hines must be replaced. Brett Kirouac has the strongest leg of the candidates.

Head coach: This is a critical year for Donnan. His record has slipped from from 10-2 in '97 to 9-3 and 8-4. And for the first time in his tenure, recruiting was disappointing. Donnan has recruited well and he's 3-0 in bowls, but he hasn't overcome his biggest hurdles, going a combined 1-7 against Florida and Tennessee. He seems to have a curious penchant for hiring assistants from his rivals. This year he lured offensive line coach Doug Marrone from Georgia Tech.

Schedule: This could be Georgia's year to snap Tennessee's nine-game winning streak because the rebuilding Vols must come to Athens. The Bulldogs trade a home game with LSU for a trip to Arkansas. Having to go to Auburn is actually a blessing. The home team in this series hasn't won since 1991.

Bottom line: If the Bulldogs are going to make a move past Tennessee and/or Florida, this is the year. If new leadership brings results on defense, Georgia could be in the BCS mix.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Breakthrough: *Last year Sanks became the first Georgia back since Garrison Hearst in 1992 to have three consecutive 100-yard games.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Terrence Edwards**	**6-2**	**175**	**So.**	Durell Robinson	6-1	205	So.
T	**Jonas Jennings**	**6-4**	**302**	**Sr.**	Alex Jackson	6-4	318	So.
G	Brady Pate	6-5	273	Sr.	Reggie Stargill	6-2	281	Sr.
C	Curt McGill	6-3	273	Jr.	Brady Pate	6-5	273	Sr.
G	**Kevin Breedlove**	**6-4**	**310**	**So.**	Reggie Stargill	6-2	281	Sr.
T	**Jon Stinchcomb**	**6-5**	**272**	**So.**	George Foster	6-5	302	So.
TE	**Jevaris Johnson**	**6-6**	**258**	**Sr.**	Randy McMichael	6-3	223	So.
WR	**Michael Greer**	**5-10**	**170**	**Sr.**	LaBrone Mitchell	6-1	203	Jr.
QB	**Quincy Carter**	**6-3**	**223**	**Jr.**	Cory Phillips	6-0	200	So.
RB	**Jasper Sanks**	**6-0**	**226**	**Jr.**	Verron Haynes	5-10	216	Jr.
RB	Brett Millican	5-11	197	Sr.	*Bruce Thornton	5-10	190	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Charles Grant**	**6-3**	**260**	**So.**	Terin Smith	6-3	234	Jr.
T	**Marcus Stroud**	**6-6**	**300**	**Sr.**	David Jacobs	6-4	258	So.
T	**Richard Seymour**	**6-6**	**295**	**Sr.**	*Shedrick Wynn	6-2	260	Fr.
E	**Bruce Adrine**	**6-4**	**258**	**Jr.**	Josh Mallard	6-2	262	Jr.
OLB	**Boss Bailey**	**6-3**	**220**	**Jr.**	Tony Gilbert	6-0	227	So.
MLB	**Kendrell Bell**	**6-2**	**240**	**Sr.**	Adrian Hollingshed	6-2	234	Jr.
OLB	Will Witherspoon	6-1	215	Jr.	Ryan Fleming	6-1	226	Jr.
CB	**Jamie Henderson**	**6-2**	**190**	**Sr.**	*Decory Bryant	6-0	185	Fr.
SS	**Terreal Bierria**	**6-3**	**213**	**So.**	Jermaine Phillips	6-1	202	Jr.
FS	**Cap Burnett**	**6-1**	**202**	**So.**	*Kentrell Curry	6-1	186	Fr.
CB	**Tim Wansley**	**5-8**	**179**	**Jr.**	Cory Robinson	5-11	191	Sr.

Special Teams

K	Brett Kirouac	6-1	191	So.	**P**	**Jonathan Kilgo**	**6-1**	**195**	**So.**

More on Georgia at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/georgia/ AOL keyword: TSN

4 Kentucky

NATIONAL RANK 45

Coach: Hal Mumme (18-17, 3 years; 83-44-1 overall, 11 years)
Offensive coordinator: Tony Franklin (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Major (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 62
Site: Lexington, Ky.
Stadium: Commonwealth (grass, 67,530)
Last league title won: 1976 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 45
1999 record: 6-6 (lost to Syracuse in Music City Bowl). SEC East: 4-4/4th

1999 Results

Louisville, L, 56-28
Connecticut, W, 45-14
at Indiana, W, 44-35
Florida, L, 38-10
Arkansas, W, 31-20
at S. Carolina, W, 30-10
LSU, W, 31-5
at Georgia, L, 49-34
at Mississippi St., L, 23-22
at Vanderbilt, W, 19-17
Tennessee, L, 56-21
Syracuse, L, 20-13

Schedule

S2—at Louisville
S9—South Florida
S16—Indiana
S23—at Florida
S30—at Mississippi
O7—South Carolina
O14—at LSU
O21—Georgia
N4—Mississippi State
N11—Vanderbilt
N18—at Tennessee

Offensive philosophy: With 468 attempts, Kentucky easily threw the most passes in the SEC in '99. But coach Hal Mumme said the Cats didn't throw it enough. The total did fall short of Mumme's first two seasons, 574 and 562, respectively, but the Wildcats were in the unusual position of killing the clock to protect leads in a few SEC games. The "Air Raid" offense spreads the field and utilizes a short passing game to move the chains. However, Kentucky ranked 110th out of 114 Division I-A teams in rushing. Mumme believes that by boosting pass attempts above 500, defenses will be more vulnerable to the run.

Offensive stars: Dusty Bonner led the SEC in every passing category while hitting 65 percent of his attempts. Bonner will use his year's experience and decision-making savvy to hold off redshirt freshman Jared Lorenzen. Quentin McCord could emerge as the go-to receiver, but Bobby Blizzard and Derek Smith are above-average targets who will post big totals.

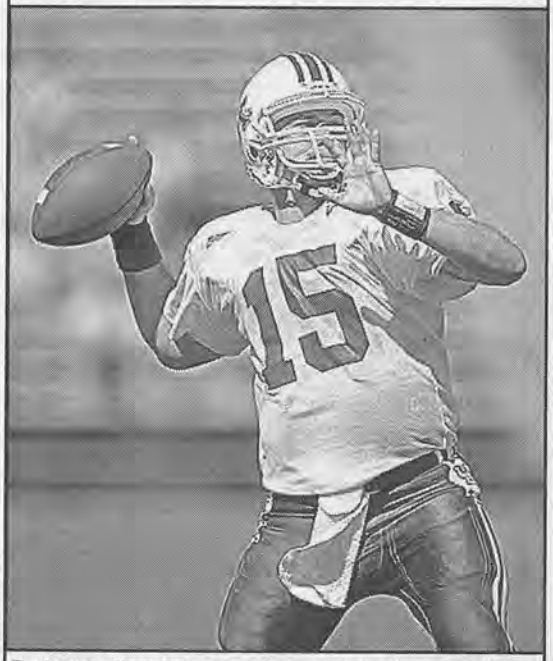
Offensive concerns: You can't have an "Air Raid" without receivers. TE James Whalen and RB Anthony White, who combined for 146 receptions last season, are gone. Garry Davis and Brad Pyatt, the leading returnees, were suspended during the spring for off-field infractions. Things will look better if Dougie Allen and Jimmy Robinson bounce back from injuries and if either Davis or Pyatt, or both, get back in the fold. The line returns intact, but that maturity needs to show tangible results. The staff will give stud signee Antonio Hall every chance to win a starting job.

Defensive philosophy: Mumme doesn't want his offense on the sideline for long stretches. Thus, the defense blitzes a lot and is designed to gamble. Get the ball back or get burned, but get the heck off the field. Coordinator Mike Major is on the same page with Mumme. The good news is the secondary should be the best Kentucky has fielded in a while, which should mean more third-down stops in passing situations.

Defensive stars: DE Dennis Johnson has a chance to be the best Wildcats lineman since Art Still in the 1970s. As his upper-body strength improves, Johnson can become a terror. CB Eric Kelly is an All-SEC candidate who can hold his own in man coverage. Marlon McCree is the most disruptive linebacker. A former safety, he has the quickness to get in the backfield.

Defensive concerns: If you can't stop the run in the SEC, you're in big trouble. Kentucky has ranked near the bottom in rushing defense in recent years and this year is replacing both starting tackles. Grayson Smith and Nick Seitze were the spring starters, but signees Jeremy Caudill and Dewayne Robertson will get thrown into the fire. Improvement is essential to Kentucky maintaining its edge on Eastern Division rivals Vanderbilt and South Carolina. Mumme and Major have recruited with that in mind and have made slight improvements in scoring and total defense each of their first three seasons.

Special teams: The Wildcats lost both of the kickers who did a nice job last fall. Seth Hanson, who kicked well in '98, returns from an injury year and will punt and possibly kick. RB Kendrick Shanklin has turned into a weapon on returns. The coverage teams played well in '99.



PAUL NISELY / TSN

Dusty wasn't rusty: *Bonner, a first-year starter, directed an offense that had only three returning starters to 28.6 points per game last year.*

Head coach: Under Mumme, the Wildcats have gone to back-to-back bowls for the first time since 1983-84 and only the second time since '50-51. A 6-5 Mumme team always can count on a bowl bid because the "Air Raid" offense is entertaining and Big Blue fans will come in droves to watch.

Schedule: Kentucky should be favored in five of its six home games, Georgia being the exception. Somewhere, the Wildcats have to get a road win or two.

Bottom line: Kentucky isn't ready to move into the Eastern Division's big three. The door is cracked open for a third consecutive bowl bid if the Wildcats can run and stop the run better.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Quentin McCord	5-10	187	Sr.	*Derek Abney	5-10	172	Fr.
T	**Matt Brown**	**6-5**	**300**	**Jr.**	Sylvester Miller	6-5	300	So.
G	**Kip Sixbery**	**6-4**	**323**	**So.**	Aaron Daniel	6-3	272	Sr.
C	**Nolan DeVaughn**	**6-5**	**318**	**Jr.**	Keith Chatelain	6-5	329	So.
G	**Josh Parrish**	**6-6**	**318**	**Jr.**	Tramaine Gaines	6-4	312	So.
T	**Omar Smith**	**6-3**	**282**	**Sr.**	Matt Burke	6-6	295	So.
TE	Derek Smith	6-6	267	So.	Chase Harp	6-4	242	So.
WR	Bobby Blizzard	6-7	246	So.	Mike Beirne	6-3	223	Jr.
QB	**Dusty Bonner**	**6-2**	**217**	**Jr.**	*Jared Lorenzen	6-4	270	Fr.
RB	**Derek Homer**	**5-11**	**200**	**Sr.**	Kendrick Shanklin	5-9	170	Jr.
WR	Neal Brown	6-0	183	So.	Gary Hughes	5-9	161	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Matt Layow	6-4	245	Sr.	Otis Grigsby	6-4	239	So.
T	Grayson Smith	6-1	246	Sr.	Richard Hardin	6-6	267	So.
T	*Nick Seitze	6-5	284	Fr.	John Robinson	6-4	285	So.
E	**Dennis Johnson**	**6-7**	**261**	**Jr.**	Chris Demaree	6-4	240	Jr.
OLB	Chris Gayton	6-2	209	Jr.	Mike Beshara	6-3	220	So.
MLB	**Ryan Murphy**	**6-2**	**240**	**Jr.**	Jamal White	6-3	221	Jr.
OLB	**Marlon McCree**	**6-1**	**193**	**Sr.**	Ronnie Riley	6-2	210	Jr.
CB	**Eric Kelley**	**5-11**	**198**	**Sr.**	*Octavius Bond	6-1	200	Fr.
SS	**Willie Gary**	**5-10**	**195**	**Sr.**	Patrick Wiggins	6-0	198	Jr.
FS	**Anthony Wajda**	**6-4**	**189**	**Jr.**	Quentus Cumby	6-1	204	So.
CB	**Kenneth Grant**	**6-0**	**208**	**Sr.**	Derrick Tatum	6-0	190	So.

Special Teams

K	Seth Hanson	6-2	196	Jr.
P	Seth Hanson	6-2	196	Jr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 Vanderbilt

NATIONAL RANK 73

Coach: Woody Widenhofer (10-23, 3 years; 22-54-1 overalll, 7 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Crosby (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Herb Paterra (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 53
Site: Nashville, Tenn.
Stadium: Vanderbilt (grass, 41,600).
Last league title won: None
Last bowl appearance: 1982
1999 TSN rank: 53
1999 record: 5-6. SEC East: 2-6/5th

1999 Results

Alabama, L, 28-17
Northern Illinois, W, 34-31
at Miss., W, 37-34 OT
at Duke, W, 31-14
Mississippi St., L, 42-14
The Citadel, W, 58-0
Georgia, L, 27-17
at S. Carolina, W, 11-10
at Florida, L, 6-13
Kentucky, L, 19-17
at Tennessee, L, 38-10

Schedule

S2—Miami (Ohio)
S9—at Alabama*
S16—Mississippi
S23—Duke
S30—at Auburn
O7—at Wake Forest
O14—at Georgia
O21—South Carolina
N4—Florida
N11—at Kentucky
N25—Tennessee
*at Birmingham, Ala.

Offensive philosophy: The Commodores aren't painful to watch on offense anymore. Last year's 22.9-point scoring average was Vandy's highest since 1987. Coach Woody Widenhofer is a defensive guru, but he recognized that he had to upgrade his offense to compete. The coaching staff is heavy on NFL experience which is reflected in the pro-style offense. Greg Zolman is an athletic quarterback. Florida transfer Tim Olmstead is more accurate and could claim the starting job if coaches don't think Zolman can improve on his '99 performance (10 TD passes, 16 interceptions). Benji Walker is another option.

Offensive stars: Coordinator Steve Crosby wants Rodney Williams or Jared McGrath to emerge at tailback. TE Elliott Carson is the leading returning target. OT Brian Gruber and G Michael Saltsman are the best up front.

Offensive concerns: The receiving corps is unproven. Last year's best options, Tavarus Hogans and Todd Yoder, are gone. That leaves Dan Stricker, with 12 receptions in '99, as the most seasoned wideout. There's hope that youngsters Anthony Jones, M.J. Garrett and Ryan Cuffee will emerge. True freshman Chris Young will get his shot, too.

Defensive philosophy: Vanderbilt's horrendous defensive slide from 1997 to '98 was reversed last fall. Vandy's switch from a 4-3 to a 3-4 last year wasn't without painful moments, but the system should work better this year because nine starters are back and the Commodores have had two springs and a season to adapt. The logic behind the switch was to emphasize the talent at linebacker. One downside: Vandy often didn't get enough of a pass rush without blitzing. Widenhofer promoted linebackers coach Herb Paterra to coordinator, though former coordinator Dino Folino remains on the staff. The transition shouldn't be a big deal because Widenhofer is the controlling force.

Defensive stars: ILB Jamie Winborn has led the SEC in tackles in each of his two seasons. He might be the best defender Vanderbilt has ever had. Jimmy Williams made Widenhofer look good on his gamble of moving his leading rusher (in 1997) to cornerback. Williams has a chance for All-SEC honors.

Defensive concerns: With so much experience, Vanderbilt should expect a good effort. Antuian Bradford has shown signs he's capable of replacing departed ILB Lamont Turner, and Jerrol Jackson is experienced enough to replace SS Ainsley Battles. The secondary has to make more plays. It intercepted only five passes last fall and the linebacking corps added just one. The 17 takeaways were the fewest in the league. The offense needs more help than that.

Special teams: John Markham was forced to add punting to his kicking chores in '99 and did well enough that a healthy Joe Webb might not win the job back. Jimmy Williams handles punt and kickoff returns, but this area must improve.

Head coach: Widenhofer probably did one of the better coaching jobs in the SEC last fall, guiding Vandy to a 5-6 record that could have easily been 6-5 or 7-4. There's no question Widenhofer can field a defense that's no fun to attack. His challenges are to keep improving the offense and recruit more athletes despite the school's stringent academic requirements.

VANDERBILT

Sky's the limit: *Jimmy Williams made a successful conversion from running back last season and led the defense with 10 pass breakups.*

Schedule: It's essential Vanderbilt sweep the non-conference games: Miami (Ohio), Wake Forest, Duke. Auburn (away) replaces Mississippi State in the SEC rotation. The Commodores won three road games in '99, which should have boosted their confidence.

Bottom line: The Commodores will be deeper and better, but there is no guarantee their record will be improved. Earning the school's first bowl bid since 1982 won't happen unless Vandy gets three non-conference victories, beats South Carolina and Kentucky and then upsets a bowl-bound team. At least this should be a fun team to watch.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Anthony Jones	6-2	175	So.	M.J. Garrett	6-3	185	So.
T	**Brian Gruber**	**6-7**	**305**	**Sr.**	*Jordan Pettit	6-4	274	Fr.
G	**Jim May**	**6-4**	**305**	**So.**	Duncan Cave	6-1	291	Jr.
C	Jamie Byrum	6-4	254	So.	*Jason Tant	6-3	263	Fr.
G	**Michael Saltsman**	**6-4**	**290**	**Sr.**	Darren Rothenberg	6-3	311	Sr.
T	Pat Green	6-7	332	Sr.	Jordan Hill	6-7	274	So.
TE	**Elliott Carson**	**6-5**	**250**	**Sr.**	Tom Simone	6-5	237	So.
WR	**Dan Stricker**	**6-3**	**190**	**So.**	Markessus House	6-4	200	So.
QB	**Greg Zolman**	**6-4**	**198**	**Jr.**	Tim Olmstead	6-2	194	Jr.
RB	**Rodney Williams**	**5-11**	**215**	**Jr.**	Jared McGrath	5-10	203	Sr.
HB	Ryan Cuffee	5-11	190	So.	Everett Robinson	5-10	187	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Doyle Crosby**	**6-4**	**278**	**Jr.**	Wally Conyers	6-7	251	Jr.
NT	**Ryan Aulds**	**6-3**	**252**	**Sr.**	Tyler Unzicker	6-1	270	Jr.
E	**Russ Nicoll**	**6-5**	**302**	**Sr.**	Chuck Losey	6-4	255	Jr.
OLB	**Matt Stewart**	**6-4**	**228**	**Sr.**	Hunter Hillenmeyer	6-4	230	So.
ILB	**Jamie Winborn**	**6-0**	**232**	**Jr.**	Mike Adam	6-3	246	So.
ILB	Antuian Bradford	6-0	218	Jr.	*Doug Wolford	6-3	228	Fr.
OLB	**Nate Morrow**	**6-3**	**236**	**Jr.**	Brandon Walthour	6-3	218	So.
CB	**Jimmy Williams**	**5-10**	**193**	**Sr.**	Aaron McWhorter	6-1	188	So.
SS	Jerrol Jackson	6-2	195	So.	Jonathan Shaub	6-1	204	So.
FS	**Harold Lercius**	**5-11**	**192**	**Jr.**	Justin Giboney	6-0	180	So.
CB	**Rushen Jones**	**6-1**	**190**	**So.**	Brian Taylor	5-11	190	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**John Markham**	**6-1**	**210**	**Sr.**	Jay Davis	5-11	173	So.	P	Joe Webb	6-3	192	Sr.	Shane Daly	6-1	190	Jr.

More on Vanderbilt at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/vanderbilt/ AOL keyword: TSN

6 South Carolina

NATIONAL RANK 86

Coach: Lou Holtz (0-11, 1 year; 216-106-7 overall, 29 years)
Offensive coordinator: Skip Holtz (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Charlie Strong (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 13
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 53
Site: Columbia, S.C.
Stadium: Williams-Brice (grass, 80,250)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1999 TSN rank: 108
1999 record: 0-11. SEC East: 0-8/6th

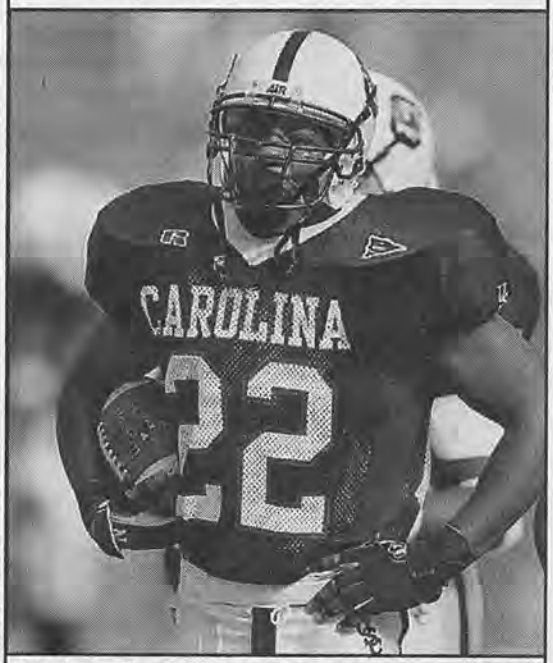
1999 Results

at NC State, L, 10-0
at Georgia, L, 24-9
East Carolina, L, 21-3
at Mississippi St., L, 17-0
Mississippi, L, 36-10
Kentucky, L, 30-10
at Arkansas, L, 48-14
Vanderbilt, L, 11-10
at Tennessee, L, 30-7
Florida, L, 20-3
Clemson, L, 31-21

Schedule

S2—New Mexico State
S9—Georgia
S16—Eastern Michigan
S23—Mississippi State
S30—at Alabama
O7—at Kentucky
O14—Arkansas
O21—at Vanderbilt
O28—Tennessee
N11—at Florida
N18—at Clemson

Offensive philosophy: The worst unit in Division I-A in 1999 will feature a different look. Coach Lou Holtz will, temporarily at least, depart from his run-oriented reputation in favor of a spread attack. Holtz and son Skip, the coordinator, think this is the best look for the available talent and should combat a steady diet of eight-man fronts. The injury-riddled line didn't have much luck last year blocking for a power running game, and receiver probably is the deepest position on offense.
Offensive stars: WR Jermale Kelly's talents have been masked by South Carolina's inept quarterbacking. He'll team with Brian Scott to be featured targets in the new scheme. WR Ryan Brewer, a converted running back, shows promise, and junior college transfer James Adkisson also will offer a boost. Derek Watson and Andrew Pinnock will handle the running chores and be asked to catch the ball, too.
Offensive concerns: The offense scored only eight touchdowns and 87 points in '99. The Gamecocks ranked last in the nation in scoring (7.9 points) and offense (228.6 yards). The attack ranked 105th of 114 teams in rushing and 103rd in passing. The biggest concern is staying healthy. Phil Petty looks like an adequate quarterback if he doesn't get hurt again. There is no clear-cut backup. A big key is getting cohesion on the line.
Defensive philosophy: Coordinator Charlie Strong will use a 3-4 scheme that can go 3-3-5. Essentially, the new scheme will feature a rover who can play like a linebacker or safety as the need arises. The defense, which ranked 20th in the nation in '99, must replace several of its playmakers, including FS Arturo Freeman and LBs John Abraham and Corey Atkins. Lou Holtz moved players to new positions in the spring. One switch he likes is Antione Nesmith going from running back to free safety.
Defensive stars: NG Cleveland Pinkney was a rock after signing out of junior college and is back for an encore. LB Kalimba Edwards has to deliver a good year. Edwards will be a pass rusher in the mold of the Abraham, although he's not as quick.
Defensive concerns: The front three can't get blown off the line. Coaches expect former Prop 48 Cecil Caldwell will graduate this summer to earn another year of eligibility. The move of Nesmith is a gamble. South Carolina picked off only eight passes last year. Can defensive backs such as Sheldon Brown, Kevin House, Rashad Faison and O'Rondai Cox produce? The pressure is on because the defense knows the offense—even an improved version—isn't likely to score often.
Special teams: Steve Florio and Courtney Leavitt are gone, so both kicking jobs are open. Patrick Shutters is the favorite to emerge as the new punter. Spring practice did little to solve the kicking vacancy. Hopefuls Reid Bethea and Jason Corse will get competition from a couple of new arrivals. Brewer did a nice job on punt returns last year. Others must emerge to help.
Head coach: Holtz got more of a challenge than he bargained for. The 10-game losing streak he inherited is alive 21 games, longest in the nation. The achievement of his first season was instilling discipline and a work ethic. At 63, he can't be accused of being set in his ways. Holtz has shown a willingness to try just about anything to get the Gamecocks off the mat.
Schedule: Will the goal posts come down if the Gamecocks beat New Mexico State in the season opener? Eastern Michigan may be a softer touch. Unfortunately, Kentucky and Vanderbilt—the SEC teams Carolina is trying to catch—are road games. A trip to Alabama rotates onto the schedule.
Bottom line: The euphoria of luring Holtz to Columbia mollified an abysmal season. Now, however, it's time to win. The Gamecocks should be better and surely won't suffer as many injuries. Even so, don't expect more than three or four wins.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Yeah, but... *Watson was the Gamecocks' leading rusher last year, but his 394 yards was one of the lowest team-leading totals in the nation.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	James Adkisson	6-4	210	Jr.	Willis Ham	6-3	205	So.
T	Travelle Wharton	6-4	295	Fr.	Watts Sanderson	6-5	281	So.
G	**Cedric Williams**	**6-3**	**290**	**So.**	*Jeff Barnes	6-4	255	Fr.
C	Jonathan Ragans	6-2	277	So.	*Justin McGuire	6-2	290	Fr.
G	Larrell Johnson	6-1	294	Jr.	Dennis Thomas	6-1	273	Sr.
T	**Melvin Paige**	**6-5**	**303**	**Jr.**	Shane Hall	6-6	290	So.
TE	Thomas Hill	6-3	240	Sr.	Rod Trafford	6-4	250	Jr.
WR	**Jermale Kelly**	**6-2**	**208**	**Sr.**	*Ted Crawford	5-9	175	Fr.
QB	**Phil Petty**	**6-3**	**205**	**Jr.**	Eric Kimrey	6-1	208	Jr.
RB	Derek Watson	6-1	205	So.	**Andrew Pinnock**	**6-0**	**242**	**So.**
WR	Brian Scott	6-2	212	Jr.	Carlos Spikes	6-0	190	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Anthony Williams	6-2	265	Sr.	Langston Moore	6-1	270	So.
NG	**Cleveland Pinkney**	**6-2**	**290**	**Sr.**	Travis Lewis	6-0	270	Jr.
E	Dennis Quinn	6-4	250	So.	Willie Sams	6-5	275	Sr.
LB	Shannon Wadley	6-1	230	Jr.	Darion Hutcherson	5-11	237	Jr.
LB	Marco Hutchinson	6-0	245	Sr.	Andre Offing	6-1	245	Sr.
LB	**Kalimba Edwards**	**6-6**	**258**	**Jr.**	Rod Thomas	6-1	220	So.
CB	**Kevin House**	**5-11**	**175**	**Jr.**	Andre Goodman	5-10	180	Jr.
S	**Rashad Faison**	**5-9**	**188**	**So.**	Jonathan Martin	5-10	210	So.
S	O'Rondai Cox	5-11	182	Jr.	Willie Offord	6-1	210	Jr.
FS	**Antione Nesmith**	**6-0**	**210**	**Jr.**	Marvin Deas	6-0	180	So.
CB	**Sheldon Brown**	**5-9**	**187**	**Jr.**	*Tim Yarn	5-10	165	Fr.

Special Teams

K	Reid Bethea	5-10	180	So.	P	Patrick Shutters	6-1	175	So.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Alabama

NATIONAL RANK 3

Coach: Mike DuBose (21-15, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Neil Callaway (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Ellis Johnson (5th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 29
Lettermen returning: 45
Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Stadium: Bryant-Denny (grass, 83,818); Legion Field (83,091)
Last league title won: 1999
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 8
1999 record: 10-3 (lost to Michigan in Orange Bowl). SEC West: 7-1/1st

1999 Results

at Vanderbilt, W, 28-17
Houston, W, 37-10
Louisiana Tech, L, 29-28
Arkansas, W, 35-28
at Florida, W, 40-39 OT
at Mississippi, W, 30-24
Tennessee, L, 21-7
Southern Miss, W, 35-14
LSU, W, 23-17
Mississippi State, W, 19-7
at Auburn, W, 28-17
Florida, W, 34-7
Michigan, L, 35-34 OT

Schedule

S2—at UCLA
S9—Vanderbilt*
S16—Southern Miss*
S23—at Arkansas
S30—South Carolina
O14—Mississippi
O21—at Tennessee
O28—Central Florida
N4—at LSU
N11—at Mississippi State
N18—Auburn
*at Birmingham, Ala.

Offensive philosophy: The Crimson Tide will continue to run the I formation but figures to be more pass-oriented with the departure of star TB Shaun Alexander and the return of two good quarterbacks (Andrew Zow and Tyler Watts) and a group of talented receivers led by Freddie Milons. Alabama likes to spread the field and open running lanes and also get the ball to speedy receivers on quick-hitting routes.

Offensive stars: Milons is the most talented and versatile offensive player in the SEC. He's primarily a flanker but also will line up at quarterback and has the skills to score catching, running, passing and on returns. Zow, who has a strong arm, is experienced, though he'll have to fight off the talented Watts to keep the first-team job. Stud Dante Ellington will replace departed All-American Chris Samuels at left tackle, moving from the right side.

Offensive concerns: The Tide appears solid everywhere but at tailback, which is a question. Shaun Bohanon filled in well last season when Alexander was slowed by an ankle injury, but Bohanon missed spring practice to concentrate on academics and his status is unclear. Ahmaad Galloway, Brandon Miree and Brad Beard figure to be adequate replacements, but it will be a big plus if Bohanon is the guy. While the Tide has the luxury of two good quarterbacks, it's important that one establishes himself early in the season for leadership purposes.

Defensive philosophy: Alabama again will run a 4-3 and look to be aggressive. The secondary is more experienced, which should allow the Tide to blitz more.

Defensive stars: Saleem Rasheed is a playmaker who led the Tide in tackles last season en route to being named a freshman All-American by THE SPORTING NEWS. FS Reggie Myles has flourished since being moved from cornerback early last season. DE Kenny King tied for the team lead in sacks last season (5.5) as a freshman and should be one of the SEC's top linemen. He'll team with Kindal Moorehead to form a potent end duo.

Defensive concerns: Marvin Constant, who played middle linebacker most of last season before suffering a knee injury, may not be back at full speed for the fall. So the Tide may have to turn to Victor Ellis. The Tide also will be eager to see how Moorehead rebounds from spring knee surgery.

Special teams: The kicking job is open and may go to Lane Bearden, who has a strong leg, or a newcomer. True freshman Matthew Sanders may be the punter. Milons gives the Tide a returner capable of scoring every time he touches the ball. Alabama should be good on coverage with its depth replenished after NCAA scholarship sanctions had lowered its numbers.

Head coach: Mike DuBose was on the hot seat entering last season because of his mediocre record (11-12) and a sexual harassment lawsuit that had to be settled. But Alabama went 10-3, won its first SEC championship since 1992 and beat Auburn in Auburn for the first time in five tries. Instead of getting a pink slip, DuBose was rewarded with a three-year contract extension and appears to have the Tide turned in the right direction.

SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN

Embarrassment of riches: *Some major college teams don't have one good quarterback. The Tide has two in Zow (above) and Watts.*

Schedule: Alabama will play in the Rose Bowl for the first time since New Year's Day 1946 when the Tide takes on UCLA in the season opener. It will be Alabama's most glamourous season opener since 1986, when the Tide beat Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic. In league play, Alabama get a break by dropping Florida and adding South Carolina.

Bottom line: All indications are that Alabama is back as an SEC power. The Tide returns 17 starters, and the coaching staff is stable and stronger after going through last season's turmoil. Alabama appears a favorite to win the Western Division title and may challenge for a national championship if it can survive road tests at UCLA, Arkansas and Tennessee.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Freddie Milons**	**5-11**	**183**	**Jr.**	Arvin Richard	5-7	178	Sr.
T	**Dante Ellington**	**6-6**	**335**	**So.**	Shaun Williams	6-5	266	Jr.
G	**Griff Redmill**	**6-6**	**301**	**Sr.**	*Matt Lomax	6-4	295	Fr.
C	**Paul Hogan**	**6-4**	**275**	**Sr.**	Alonzo Ephriam	6-3	280	So.
G	**Will Cuthbert**	**6-5**	**329**	**Sr.**	*Dennis Alexander	6-5	315	Fr.
T	Lannis Baxley	6-6	295	So.	Bart Raulston	6-9	337	So.
TE	**Terry Jones Jr.**	**6-3**	**262**	**Jr.**	Shawn Draper	6-4	294	Sr.
WR	**Jason McAddley**	**6-2**	**194**	**Jr.**	Antonio Carter	5-9	190	So.
QB	**Andrew Zow**	**6-2**	**217**	**Jr.**	Tyler Watts	6-3	214	So.
RB	Shaun Bohanon	6-2	215	Sr.	Ahmaad Galloway	6-1	212	So.
FB	**Dustin McClintock**	**6-3**	**271**	**Sr.**	Jeremy Walker	6-3	250	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Kindal Moorehead**	**6-3**	**293**	**Jr.**	Derek Sanders	6-4	277	So.
T	Kenny Smith	6-5	286	Sr.	Kelvis White	6-5	291	Sr.
T	*Garry McNealy	6-4	280	Fr.	Jarret Johnson	6-4	268	So.
E	**Kenny King**	**6-4**	**270**	**So.**	Derek Sanders	6-4	277	So.
OLB	**Saleem Rasheed**	**6-3**	**220**	**So.**	Chris Horne	6-2	221	Sr.
MLB	Marvin Constant	6-1	245	So.	Victor Ellis	6-2	231	Jr.
OLB	Darius Gilbert	6-2	235	Jr.	Adam Cox	6-1	208	Jr.
CB	**Milo Lewis**	**6-0**	**176**	**Sr.**	Shontua Ray	5-10	202	Jr.
SS	**Tony Dixon**	**6-2**	**203**	**Sr.**	Jason Jones	5-11	180	Sr.
FS	**Reggie Myles**	**5-11**	**185**	**Jr.**	Marcus Spencer	6-2	194	Sr.
CB	**Gerald Dixon**	**5-11**	**185**	**So.**	Hirchel Bolden	5-10	190	So.

Special Teams

K	Chris Kemp	5-9	171	Sr.	**P**	Lane Bearden	6-0	180	So.

2 Mississippi

NATIONAL RANK 19

Coach: David Cutcliffe (9-4, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: John Latina (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Art Kaufman (6th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 54
Site: Oxford, Miss.
Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway (grass, 50,577)
Last league title won: 1963.
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 17
1999 record: 8-4 (beat Oklahoma in Independence Bowl). SEC West: 4-4/T3rd

1999 Results

at Memphis, W, 3-0
Arkansas State, W, 38-14
Vanderbilt, L, 37-34 OT
at Auburn, W, 24-17 OT
at South Carolina W, 36-10
Tulane, W, 20-13
Alabama, L, 30-24
at LSU, W, 42-23
Arkansas, W, 38-16
Georgia, L, 20-17
at Mississippi St., L, 23-20
Oklahoma, W, 27-25

Schedule

S2—Tulane
S9—Auburn
S16—at Vanderbilt
S30—Kentucky
O7—Arkansas State
O14—at Alabama
O28—UNLV
N4—at Arkansas
N11—LSU
N18—at Georgia
N23—Mississippi State

Offensive philosophy: The Rebels will be back in the I-formation, which coach David Cutcliffe used when he was offensive coordinator at Tennessee. But in spring practice there was an emphasis on the passing game. The Rebels would like more balance to go with their excellent running game paced by RBs Deuce McAllister and Joe Gunn.

Offensive stars: QB Romaro Miller, who has a strong arm and quick feet, enters his third season as a starter. Miller will benefit from having the cool of a senior leader, and he also should be able to make quicker decisions in his second season running Cutcliffe's offense. McAllister led the SEC in all-purpose yards last season and is a threat as a runner, receiver and kick returner. Gunn is the SEC's leading returning rusher (951 yards last season) and along with McAllister gives Ole Miss arguably the best 1-2 running punch in the country. Redshirt freshman QB Eli Manning had an impressive spring and has the look of a future star, but Miller's experience should keep Manning in a backup role.

Offensive concerns: Ole Miss needs WR Grant Heard, who redshirted last season because he was slow to recover from major knee surgery, to regain his 1998 form when he had 40 catches. The receiving unit lacks experience with the loss of Cory Peterson and needs Maurice Flournoy and Jamie Armstrong, as well as the incoming freshmen, to step up. The Rebels are hoping Terrence Metcalf can make a smooth transition from guard to left tackle, but the right tackle spot remains a question after Belton Johnson suffered a broken ankle in the spring. TE Doug Zeigler has speed but is unproven. FB Charles Stackhouse, who missed spring practice because of a knee injury, needs to be at full speed so the Rebels can take advantage of his blocking and receiving skills.

Defensive philosophy: The Rebels again will run a 4-3 scheme, but because they feel their cornerbacks are improved, they may play more man coverages and be more aggressive.

Defensive stars: LB Eddie Strong has moved to middle linebacker from his outside spot. He's still fast but has beefed up to 250 pounds. Syniker Taylor, who also plays on the Ole Miss basketball team, has switched from cornerback to free safety and should make a lot of big plays. He also could get action at receiver. DE Derrick Burgess is a big-play guy.

Defensive concerns: The Rebels lost four tackles, including sack leader Kendrick Clancy, from last season so finding quality players is a major concern. Antionne Scott has moved from end to tackle, but he's undersized. Anthony Sims also needs to step up at tackle. Moving Strong weakened the outside linebacker spot, so Ole Miss needs strong play from Shawn Johnson and Amzie Williams.

Special teams: Les Binkley hit 14-of-16 field-goal attempts last season and may be the SEC's best kicker. P Reagan King is back but needs to improve on last season's 38.1-yard average. The Rebels need to find a new special-teams leader with the loss of WR Sheldon Morris. McAllister gives Ole Miss one of the top kick returners in the nation, but the Rebels need to be careful about overusing him.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

It figures: *Miller threw for 1,999 yards in 1999 and helped the Rebels win the final game of 1999: over Oklahoma on December 31.*

Head coach: Cutcliffe is still enjoying a honeymoon. He knows the SEC, has built on the foundation established by Tommy Tuberville before he left for Auburn and could take the Rebels to greater heights.

Schedule: September 9 has a big red circle around it. That's when Auburn and Tuberville play at Mississippi. Ole Miss won round one in overtime last season at Auburn and would love to make it two in a row over Tuberville. In the SEC rotation, Ole Miss adds Kentucky and drops South Carolina.

Bottom line: The Rebels should be exciting on offense and score a lot of points. They'll need to score a lot for a fourth consecutive bowl trip because they figure to struggle on defense.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Maurice Flournoy**	**5-10**	**170**	**Jr.**	Grant Heard	6-2	190	Sr.
T	**Terrence Metcalf**	**6-3**	**300**	**Jr.**	*Cliff Woodruff	6-6	275	Fr.
G	Shane Grice	6-1	315	Sr.	German Bello	6-3	290	So.
C	**Ben Claxton**	**6-3**	**290**	**So.**	Charlie Perkins	6-2	295	Sr.
G	**Keydrick Vincent**	**6-5**	**350**	**Sr.**	Augustus Carwell	6-3	343	So.
T	Matt Koon	6-4	285	Jr.	Belton Johnson	6-4	290	So.
TE	Doug Zeigler	6-3	235	So.	Mitch Skrmetta	6-4	245	Jr.
WR	Jamie Armstrong	6-0	180	Jr.	Mike Salters	6-0	195	So.
QB	**Romaro Miller**	**6-1**	**195**	**Sr.**	*Eli Manning	6-4	200	Fr.
RB	**Deuce McAllister**	**6-1**	**220**	**Sr.**	**Joe Gunn**	**5-9**	**207**	**Jr.**
FB	Tremaine Turner	5-10	190	So.	Charles Stackhouse	6-2	221	Jr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Derrick Burgess**	**6-2**	**260**	**Sr.**	John Romm	6-2	241	Sr.
T	Anthony Sims	6-2	272	Jr.	Dusty Braddock	6-1	262	So.
T	Antionne Scott	6-2	255	Sr.	*Jesse Mitchell	6-3	260	Fr.
E	**Shane Elam**	**6-1**	**240**	**Sr.**	Justin Blake	6-2	245	So.
OLB	Kevin Thomas	5-9	190	Jr.	Amzie Williams	6-1	220	Sr.
MLB	**Eddie Strong**	**6-2**	**235**	**Jr.**	Chad Cook	6-0	230	Sr.
OLB	**Shawn Johnson**	**6-1**	**220**	**Sr.**	Ryan Hamilton	6-2	217	So.
CB	**Ken Lucas**	**6-1**	**201**	**Sr.**	Desmon Johnson	5-9	160	So.
SS	Anthony Magee	5-11	180	Sr.	Kenny Woods	6-2	215	Sr.
FS	**Syniker Taylor**	**6-0**	**195**	**Jr.**	Wes Scott	6-1	190	So.
CB	Justin Coleman	5-9	175	Jr.	Kevin Farmer	5-8	162	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Les Binkley**	**5-9**	**170**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Reagan King**	**6-2**	**225**	**Sr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

3 Arkansas

NATIONAL RANK 30

Coach: Houston Nutt (17-7, 2 years; 53-29 overall, 7 years)
Offensive coordinator: Houston Nutt (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Bobby Allen and John Thompson (1st seasons)
Offensive scheme: I formation
Defensive scheme: 4-4
Starters lost: 13
Lettermen lost: 28
Lettermen returning: 32
Site: Fayetteville, Ark.
Stadium: Razorback (grass, 73,000); War Memorial (grass, 53,645)
Last league title won: 1989 (Southwest)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 18
1999 record: 8-4 (beat Texas in Cotton Bowl). SEC West: 4-4/T3rd

1999 Results

SMU, W, 26-0
La.-Monroe, W, 44-6
at Alabama, L, 35-28
at Kentucky, L, 31-20
Middle Tenn. St., W, 58-6
South Carolina, W, 48-14
Auburn, W, 34-10
at Mississippi, L, 38-16
Tennessee, W, 28-24
Mississippi State, W, 14-9
at LSU, L, 35-10
Texas, W, 27-6

Schedule

S2—SW Missouri State*
S16—Boise State*
S23—Alabama
S30—Georgia
O7—Louisiana-Monroe
O14—at South Carolina
O28—at Auburn
N4—Mississippi
N11—at Tennessee
N18—at Mississippi State
N25—LSU*
*at Little Rock, Ark.

Offensive philosophy: The Razorbacks want to be balanced. But early in the season, while breaking in a new quarterback (sophomores Robby Hampton and Gary Brashears are contending for the job), they figure to rely heavily on a running game led by RB Cedric Cobbs and a line that returns four starters. Arkansas likes to establish the run to set up the play-action pass. There is a talented group of receivers, including Boo Williams and Michael Snowden.

Offensive stars: Cobbs is big, fast and strong and should be one of the country's top players. Williams has the total package. He isn't afraid to go over the middle and make the tough catch and also can go deep. Shannon Money is the team's top lineman and has the versatility to play tackle or guard. He prefers guard but played tackle because of need last season.

Offensive concerns: The Razorbacks need to find a dependable quarterback to replace Clint Stoerner, who took nearly every snap the past three seasons. While Hampton and Brashears got experience as freshmen, they have to prove they can play under fire. Arkansas also must develop depth at running back so Cobbs doesn't get overworked.

Defensive philosophy: The Razorbacks will continue to be aggressive but may not be as much all-or-nothing as they were under previous coordinator Keith Burns, who is now Tulsa's head coach. An eight-man front will remain a staple, but the Razorbacks figure to use more zones and will disguise coverages more often. The Razorbacks are loaded with speed and should be able to swarm.

Defensive stars: LB Quinton Caver started every game last season and has the speed to make plays all over the field, whether blitzing or dropping into coverage. DE Randy Garner is the team's best pass rusher and also is strong against the run. DE Carlos Hall, the team's best athlete, may be ready for a breakthrough year after playing inconsistently and failing to live up to expectations the previous two seasons.

Defensive concerns: Arkansas is breaking in four new starters in the secondary, so the newcomers must mature quickly or they will be lit up in a division that features several veteran quarterbacks. Developing depth at linebacker behind Caver and J.J. Jones also is critical so the Razorbacks can have an effective rotation and keep fresh players.

Special teams: Arkansas must break in a new kicker with the departure of Tony Dodson, and punter Richie Butler has to be more consistent. Finding return men capable of breaking big plays remains a concern—Cobbs and redshirt freshman Richardson Smith may be the answers—and spotty coverage units are a worry.

Head coach: Houston Nutt will be trying to take the Razorbacks to a third consecutive New Year's Day bowl, something that hasn't been done at Arkansas since 1960-63, with a team that has more talent and speed but less experience than in recent years. Nutt has restored the fans' faith with a 17-7 record the past two seasons. He also has recruited well and upgraded his staff for this year by adding co-defensive coordinator John Thompson (who left LSU) and defensive line coach Bill Johnson (who left Texas A&M).

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Big-game player: *Caver had 11 tackles against Tennessee last season and five tackles, two pass breakups and a sack against Texas.*

Schedule: With five consecutive home games (seven overall) to start the season, the Razorbacks can build momentum. But that homestand includes back-to-back games against Alabama and Georgia to open SEC play, so Arkansas needs to develop quickly after warming up against Southwest Missouri State and Boise State, Nutt's previous coaching stop.

Bottom line: It's crucial that one of the quarterbacks emerges quickly. The Razorbacks don't need Hampton or Brashears to be a star, but the team needs a steady hand to run an offense that is strong everywhere else. If Arkansas gets solid play at quarterback, it can challenge Alabama for the Western Division title and play in a prominent bowl game.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Boo Williams	6-4	235	Sr.	Sparky Hamilton	6-4	207	So.
T	**Shannon Money**	**6-4**	**308**	**Jr.**	Nathan Ball	6-4	292	So.
G	**Lazerius White**	**6-4**	**320**	**Jr.**	John Geitner	6-5	307	Sr.
C	**Josh Melton**	**6-4**	**302**	**Jr.**	*Scott Davenport	6-2	303	Fr.
G	**Kenny Sandlin**	**6-3**	**324**	**Jr.**	*Jim Peters	6-3	288	Fr.
T	Gary Hobbs	6-6	314	So.	Brett Shockley	6-8	335	Sr.
TE	Marcellus Poydras	6-4	254	So.	*Cameron Glenn	6-5	268	Fr.
WR	Michael Snowden	6-3	212	Sr.	*Richard Smith	5-10	174	Fr.
QB	Robby Hampton	6-2	224	So.	Gary Brashears	6-5	219	So.
RB	Cedric Cobbs	6-2	220	So.	Rod Stinson	5-9	204	Sr.
FB	Eric Branch	6-0	238	Sr.	Adam Daily	6-1	251	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Randy Garner**	**6-4**	**272**	**Sr.**	Raymond House	6-3	254	So.
T	Sacha Lancaster	6-2	277	Jr.	Pervis Osborne	6-4	272	So.
T	**Curt Davis**	**6-3**	**290**	**Jr.**	Jermaine Brooks	6-3	278	So.
E	**Carlos Hall**	**6-4**	**253**	**Jr.**	Jermaine Petty	6-3	255	Jr.
OLB	J.J. Jones	6-0	235	Sr.	Jim Ed Reed	6-2	218	Sr.
MLB	**Quinton Caver**	**6-5**	**230**	**Sr.**	*Corey Warren	6-0	234	Fr.
OLB	Jeremiah Harper	5-10	187	Sr.	*Tony Bua	5-11	200	Fr.
CB	Harold Harris	5-11	194	Jr.	*Kevin Baker	5-10	159	Fr.
SS	Jimmy Beasley	*5-11	183	Fr.	Derrick Johnson	6-1	208	Jr.
FS	Corey Harris	5-10	195	Jr.	*Ken Hamlin	6-3	199	Fr.
CB	**Orlando Green**	**5-10**	**210**	**Jr.**	D'Andre Berry	5-9	180	Jr.

Special Teams

K	Matt Swartz	5-9	191	Sr.	P	**Richie Butler**	**6-1**	**222**	**So.**

4 LSU

NATIONAL RANK 39

Coach: Nick Saban (1st season; 43-26-1 overall, 6 years)
Offensive coordinator: Jimbo Fisher (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Phil Elmassian (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 14
Lettermen returning: 45
Site: Baton Rouge, La.
Stadium: Tiger (grass, 91,600)
Last league title won: 1988 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 74
1999 record: 3-8. SEC West: 1-7/6th

1999 Results

San Jose State, W, 29-21
North Texas, W, 52-0
Auburn, L, 41-7
at Georgia, L, 23-22
Florida, L, 31-10
at Kentucky, L, 31-5
at Mississippi St., L, 17-16
Mississippi, L, 42-23
at Alabama, L, 23-17
Houston, L, 20-7
Arkansas, W, 35-10

Schedule

S2—Western Carolina
S9—Houston
S16—at Auburn
S23—UAB
S30—Tennessee
O7—at Florida
O14—Kentucky
O21—Mississippi State
N4—Alabama
N11—at Mississippi
N25—at Arkansas*
*at Little Rock, Ark.

Offensive philosophy: The Tigers will strive for more balance and to avoid situations where they're throwing out of desperation because the running game has failed. LSU will use the I-formation but also run some multi-receiver sets and one-back sets. Jimbo Fisher, who previously worked with Terry Bowden at Auburn and came to LSU from Cincinnati, will be the coordinator, so look for the Bowden influence, with more imagination and unpredictability in the scheme.
Offensive stars: WR Jerel Myers was a surprise last season when he had 64 catches. He's a good possession receiver and will be looked to for more big plays. QB Josh Booty, who made his college football debut last season after five years of pro baseball, should be more comfortable running the offense and cut down his interceptions (19 last season) if he isn't asked to carry too much of a load. OT Louis Williams is starting for the fourth season.
Offensive concerns: Booty has talent, but is he ready to deliver on the high expectations? QB Rohan Davey, who relieved Booty in the season finale against Arkansas and led the Tigers to a 35-10 victory, is questionable after tearing knee ligaments in a charity basketball game in February. The line, which was injury-plagued last season, has to stay healthy and jell. RB Domanick Davis, who played well as a backup to Rondell Mealey last season, has to show he's ready to be the feature back. Heralded freshmen RBs Derron Parquet and Devery Henderson also need to contribute quickly.
Defensive philosophy: No more reading-and-reacting after the problems of the last two seasons. LSU will run an aggressive 4-3 scheme under coordinator Phil Elmassian, who came from Wisconsin, where he coached defensive backs. LSU coach Nick Saban, the head coach at Michigan State the previous five years, is a defensive guru who figures to have an influence.
Defensive stars: FS Ryan Clark always is around the ball, but the Tigers hope he won't have to make as many plays as last season, when Clark led the team with 110 tackles. LB Trev Faulk is a big-time talent who should flourish in the new scheme. He's a good run stopper, but coaches would like to see him add weight. DE Jarvis Green is great in pursuit and led the Tigers with seven sacks last season.
Defensive concerns: There's talent, but the Tigers need to regain confidence after being pummeled in so many games in recent seasons. The key goals are to tighten coverage and rush the passer without always having to blitz. They also need to toughen up physically after losing so many games in the fourth quarter in '99.
Special teams: There were too many blocked kicks and coverage breakdowns last year. An emphasis has to be placed on the kicking game. One bright spot is John Corbello, a reliable kicker who also may punt if redshirt freshman Donnie Jones doesn't win the job.
Head coach: Working for Saban isn't easy. Just two assistants stayed at Michigan State for all five seasons Saban was there, and none of the Spartans' coaches followed Saban to LSU. But nobody is saying Saban can't coach, and LSU is betting that Saban will cover his $1.2 million salary by fielding a team that will fill the seats at expanded Tiger Stadium (91,600 capacity). Saban has brought in a good staff that has a heavy Auburn influence. Hiring assistants with SEC experience should help speed Saban's transition to a new conference. Saban isn't much for public relations. And don't look for him to open a restaurant, as did predecessor Gerry DiNardo. But if Saban turns the Tigers into winners, LSU fans won't be complaining.
Schedule: LSU has seven home games but tough trips to Auburn, Florida, Ole Miss and Arkansas. In the SEC rotation, the Tigers drop Georgia but add Tennessee.
Bottom line: The Tigers should be improved. There's talent, but Saban and his assistants have to restore confidence. A 7-4 or 6-5 record seems possible.

LSU

Time for a change: *Look for LSU to junk its defensive passivity of the past two seasons for a more aggressive approach. It can't hurt.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Jerel Myers**	**5-11**	**180**	**So.**	Abram Booty	6-2	191	Sr.
T	**Louis Williams**	**6-5**	**291**	**Sr.**	**Brandon Winey**	**6-7**	**294**	**Sr.**
G	Bob Wynne	6-4	286	So.	Dwayne Pierce	6-3	322	Sr.
C	**John Compton**	6-3	285	Sr.	**Jason Underwood**	**6-4**	**265**	**Jr.**
G	Trey Langley	6-5	292	Sr.	*Rodney Reed	6-4	271	Fr.
T	**Jason Baggett**	**6-6**	**283**	**Jr.**	Brad Smalling	6-7	320	So.
TE	Robert Royal	6-5	240	Sr.	**Joe Domingeaux**	**6-5**	**266**	**Jr.**
WR	**Reggie Robinson**	**6-2**	**191**	**Jr.**	Josh Reed	5-11	198	So.
QB	**Josh Booty**	**6-3**	**224**	**Jr.**	Craig Nall	6-4	218	Jr.
RB	Domanick Davis	5-10	207	So.	*LaBrandon Toefield	6-0	224	Fr.
FB	**Tommy Banks**	**6-0**	**271**	**Sr.**	Mike Lillie	6-3	238	Sr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Kareem Mitchell**	**6-4**	**258**	**Sr.**	Kyle Kipps	6-4	261	Jr.
NG	Willie Gray	6-2	276	So.	**Muskingum Barnes**	**6-2**	**269**	**Jr.**
T	Howard Green	6-2	314	Jr.	Melvin Richey	6-4	320	Jr.
E	**Jarvis Green**	**6-3**	**259**	**Jr.**	*Terry Phillips	6-6	294	Fr.
OLB	Jeremy Lawrence	6-2	230	So.	Bubba Alexander	6-2	217	Sr.
MLB	**Trev Faulk**	**6-3**	**225**	**So.**	Chris Cooper	5-11	226	So.
OLB	Bradie James	6-3	228	So.	**Thomas Dunson**	**6-3**	**228**	**Jr.**
CB	**Fred Booker**	**5-10**	**188**	**Sr.**	Lionel Thomas	6-0	196	Jr.
SS	Damien James	5-11	190	So.	**Norman LeJeune**	**6-0**	**188**	**So.**
FS	**Ryan Clark**	**5-11**	**185**	**Jr.**	Terrence O'Bryant	6-3	207	Jr.
CB	Robert Davis	5-10	184	Jr.	Demetrius Hookfin	5-11	172	So.

Special Teams

K	**John Corbello**	**5-11**	**213**	**So.**	Kris Kessler	6-1	194	Jr.	**P**	*Donnie Jones	6-3	211	Fr.	Ross Cockrell	6-1	186	Fr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 Auburn

NATIONAL RANK 48

Coach: Tommy Tuberville (5-6, 1 year; 30-26 overall, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Noel Mazzone (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: John Lovett (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 44
Site: Auburn, Ala.
Stadium: Jordan-Hare (grass, 85,214)
Last league title won: 1989 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 52
1999 record: 5-6. SEC West: 2-6/5th

1999 Results

Appalachian St., W, 22-15
Idaho, W, 30-23
at LSU, W, 41-7
Mississippi, L, 24-17 OT
at Tennessee, L, 24-0
Mississippi St., L, 18-16
Florida, L, 32-14
at Arkansas, L, 34-10
Central Florida, W, 28-10
at Georgia, W, 38-21
Alabama, L, 28-17

Schedule

A31—Wyoming
S9—at Mississippi
S16—LSU
S23—Northern Illinois
S30—Vanderbilt
O7—at Mississippi State
O14—at Florida
O21—Louisiana Tech
O28—Arkansas
N11—Georgia
N18—at Alabama

Offensive philosophy: Though Auburn will continue to run a lot of one-back sets with Noel Mazzone as coordinator, the Tigers have to improve what was the worst rushing offense among NCAA Division I-A teams. Look for some two-back sets. It's critical the Tigers improve in short-yardage situations if they're going to succeed.

Offensive stars: WR Ronney Daniels, whose pro baseball career fizzled, became a home-run hitter for the Tigers last season. Daniels, 23, considered leaving Auburn after last season to pursue an NFL career but wisely decided to return for more seasoning. He has size, speed and strength, plus experience now. QB Ben Leard is the unquestioned starter. He's an efficient passer who rarely makes mistakes and has full command of an offense that relies heavily on the quarterback making the right reads and audibles. Leard may not be as talented as other SEC quarterbacks, but he's smart, tough and steady. RB Rudi Johnson was the national junior college player of the year and will be counted on to help revive the lost rushing game. Johnson isn't big, but he's fast and powerful.

Offensive concerns: The Tigers must find a running game. That means the line must become more productive. That may hinge on the health of G Kendall Simmons, a talented blocker who is rebounding from surgery on both feet. Without him, a line with shaky depth becomes a bigger question. Johnson also must show he's ready to be an impact player.

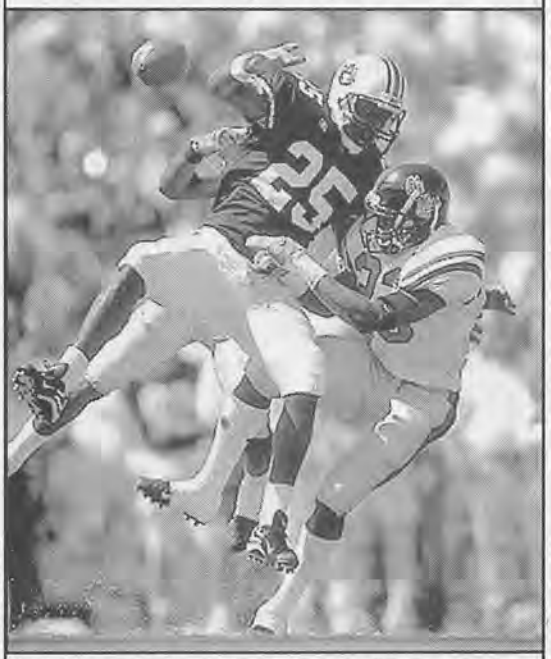
Defensive philosophy: Under coordinator John Lovett, the Tigers will continue to a run a 4-3 that relies on reaction and press coverage while getting pressure on the quarterback without having to rely heavily on blitzes. The defense must replace seven starters and will experience growing pains.

Defensive stars: It's a starry secondary for the Tigers with CBs Larry Casher and Rodney Crayton, who both have been starting since they were freshmen. Rob Pate, a big hitter, has bulked up and moved from strong safety to linebacker. Casher and Crayton are strong cover men. Casher tends to take more chances than Crayton and thus can get burned, but Casher also makes more big plays. LB James Callier, who played sparingly last year while recovering from a knee injury, figures to be stronger and could make a big impact.

Defensive concerns: Auburn lost its top five linemen, and T Josh Weldon is the Tigers' only lineman with significant experience. He's a good, steady player but not an anchor. The Tigers need youngsters such as DT DeMarco McNeil and JC DEs Javar Mills and Alton Moore to step up quickly. While Callier, Alex Lincoln and Tavarreus Pounds are good linebackers, the Tigers need to develop depth.

Special teams: After having the SEC's worst field-goal percentage last season (.526), the Tigers are hoping freshman Phillip Yost can become a major weapon. Damon Duval is the SEC's top returning punter after averaging 42.9 yards last season.

Head coach: Tommy Tuberville improved Auburn from 3-8 to 5-6 in his first season and remains popular among fans. But if he's going to have staying power, he needs to start winning more against West rivals Alabama and Arkansas. In five seasons as an SEC West coach—including four at Ole Miss before moving to Auburn last season—Tuberville's teams are 0-5 against Alabama and 1-4 against Arkansas. Obviously, Tuberville has had the less-talented team in most of those meetings, but coaches who have a losing streak against Alabama won't stay around Auburn for long.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Glad to have you: *Daniels almost split for the NFL after a superb freshman season, but the Tigers and their fans are happy he stayed.*

Schedule: The SEC opener will be highly anticipated because it will mark Tuberville's return to Ole Miss. In SEC play, the Tigers, who the last two years were the only team to play Florida, Tennessee and Georgia, get a break with Vanderbilt replacing Tennessee.

Bottom line: Considering the soft non-conference schedule, a 6-5 record is realistic. The Tigers should be better, but depth remains a problem.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Ronney Daniels**	**6-1**	**204**	**So.**	Marcel Willis	6-1	180	So.
T	Kendall Simmons	6-3	309	Jr.	*Mark Pera	6-6	290	Fr.
G	**Hart McGarry**	**6-5**	**269**	**Jr.**	*Steve Goula	6-5	287	Fr.
C	Ben Nowland	6-2	280	So.	Colin Sears	6-3	287	Sr.
G	**Mike Pucillo**	**6-4**	**307**	**Jr.**	*Monreko Crittendon	6-5	320	Fr.
T	**Tim Castro**	**6-4**	**299**	**Sr.**	Larkin Deason	6-3	275	Sr.
TE	**Lorenzo Diamond**	**6-3**	**230**	**So.**	Reid Tankersley	6-3	265	Jr.
WR	**Reggie Worthy**	**6-0**	**191**	**Sr.**	Deandre Green	6-2	210	Fr.
QB	**Ben Leard**	**6-4**	**225**	**Sr.**	Daniel Cobb	6-4	228	Jr.
RB	Rudi Johnson	5-9	220	Jr.	*Casinious Moore	6-0	214	Fr.
FB	**Heath Evans**	**6-0**	**228**	**Jr.**	Michael Owens	6-0	212	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Whit Smith	6-2	230	Jr.	Tim Monagan	6-0	216	So.
T	Roderick Chambers	6-2	262	Sr.	*DeMarco McNeil	6-1	303	Fr.
T	Josh Weldon	6-4	279	Jr.	*Dexter Murphy	6-2	240	Fr.
E	Derek Magwood	6-3	243	So.	*Reggie Torbor	6-2	225	Fr.
OLB	Tavarreus Pounds	6-0	227	So.	*Dontarrious Thomas	6-3	210	Fr.
MLB	**Alex Lincoln**	**6-1**	**238**	**Sr.**	James Callier	6-0	228	Jr.
OLB	**Rob Pate**	**6-3**	**199**	**Sr.**	Courtney Rose	5-8	186	Sr.
CB	**Larry Casher**	**5-11**	**164**	**Sr.**	Dominicke Haston	5-10	185	Sr.
SS	Rashaud Walker	6-0	190	So.	Roderick Hood	5-10	184	So.
FS	Stanford Simmons	6-2	191	So.	Roshard Gilyard	5-9	190	Fr.
CB	**Rodney Crayton**	**5-8**	**173**	**Sr.**	Brandon Reed	5-10	169	So.

Special Teams

K	**Damon Duval**	**6-0**	**175**	**So.**	**P**	**Damon Duval**	**6-0**	**175**	**So.**

More on Auburn at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/auburn/ AOL keyword: TSN

6 Mississippi St.

NATIONAL RANK 58

Coach: Jackie Sherrill (59-44-2, 9 years; 164-89-4 overall, 22 years)
Offensive coordinator: Sparky Woods (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Joe Lee Dunn (5th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple I
Defensive scheme: 50
Starters lost: 14
Lettermen lost: 24
Lettermen returning: 44
Site: Starkville, Miss.
Stadium: Scott Field (grass, 40,656)
Last league title won: 1941
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 12
1999 record: 10-2 (beat Clemson in Peach Bowl). SEC West: 6-2/2nd

1999 Results

Middle Tenn. St., W, 40-7
Memphis, W, 13-10
Oklahoma State, W, 29-11
South Carolina, W, 17-0
at Vanderbilt, W, 42-14
at Auburn, W, 18-16
LSU, W, 17-16
Kentucky, W, 23-22
at Alabama, L, 19-7
at Arkansas, L, 14-9
Mississippi, W, 23-20
Clemson, W, 17-7

Schedule

S2—at Memphis
S16—at BYU
S23—at South Carolina
S30—Florida
O7—Auburn
O21—at LSU
O28—Middle Tenn. State
N4—at Kentucky
N11—Alabama
N18—Arkansas
N25—at Mississippi

Offensive philosophy: The Bulldogs like to capitalize on mistakes and win with their defense and kicking game. So, look for MSU to be conservative, although the offense may open up a bit with QB Wayne Madkin in his third season as a starter. The Bulldogs changed things last season by throwing to the backs more, and coordinator Sparky Woods figures to add a few more wrinkles, though nothing too daring.

Offensive stars: Madkin had a strong finish in the Bulldogs' Peach Bowl victory over Clemson and should play with more confidence. RB Dontae Walker has loads of talent but needs to work harder to realize his potential. OT Pork Chop Womack is a big-time talent who protects Madkin's blind side.

Offensive concerns: The line, which has undergone shuffling, needs to jell quickly to give the Bulldogs a chance to be more productive. Junior college transfers Courtney Lee and Tommy Watson are the projected starting guards. Both must show they're ready for the SEC. The Bulldogs have some good young receivers, led by Terrell Grindle, but they need newcomers to deliver with the loss of Kelvin Love, last season's big-play guy. MSU would like to find a back who can carry the ball 25 times a game, but so far no one has stepped forward to fill that role. Backup QB Matt Wyatt, who played well off the bench last season when Madkin was hurt or struggled, is gone, so Madkin has to stay healthy and play consistently.

Defensive philosophy: No defense is more unorthodox than the Bulldogs' scheme. Coordinator Joe Lee Dunn is a master at confusing offenses and may use anywhere from one to three linebackers or four to seven defensive backs, depending on the situation. Dunn's defenses have a reputation for bringing maximum pressure, but over the years his teams also have been successful because of the threat of the blitz.

Defensive stars: CB Fred Smoot excels in man coverage. His abilities give the Bulldogs a chance to blitz more often if they want. Pig Prather made a smooth transition to safety from running back last season and should be even better. He has speed, strength and great instincts. After playing in the line rotation last season, DT Ellis Wyms is ready for a starring role. He knows the system and is a physical player.

Defensive concerns: MSU must replace eight starters. Although the Bulldogs have talent at every position, depth, especially on the line, could be a problem. MSU was able to rotate seven linemen last season but may have to go with its starters most of the way this year. The Bulldogs will have to count on newcomers, most notably freshman Demotto Youngblood, to give the line a boost.

Special teams: The Bulldogs traditionally are strong in the kicking game, and this season should be no different. MSU has a knack of forcing turnovers on kicks with strong coverage. K Scott Westerfield hit a school-record 18 field goals in 24 attempts last season, including game-winners against Kentucky and Ole Miss. Freshman P Jared Cook is replacing Jeff Walker.

Head coach: Jackie Sherrill was supposed to use MSU as a steppingstone but instead has stayed in Starkville and done what once seemed impossible—turned the Bulldogs into consistent winners. Sherrill has talented coordinators in Woods and Dunn (both former head coaches) and allows them to do their jobs.

MISSISSIPPI STATE

The anchor: *Womack, nicknamed "Pork Chop" because he weighs 336 pounds, has started 25 consecutive games at left offensive tackle.*

Schedule: The Bulldogs open with three consecutive road games and have just five home games. In the SEC rotation, they have added Florida and subtracted Vanderbilt. MSU didn't play the Gators, Tennessee or Georgia last year.

Bottom line: The Bulldogs again should be good on defense, but they may struggle to score. And with a tougher schedule, they figure to have trouble matching their 8-4 or 10-2 records of the past two seasons. A losing record in the balanced West is possible, though don't count out Sherrill.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Terrell Grindle	5-10	184	So.	Clarence Parker	6-3	203	Jr.
T	**Pork Chop Womack**	**6-3**	**336**	**Sr.**	Carl Hutchins	6-5	300	So.
G	Courtney Lee	6-4	328	Jr.	*Donald Tucker	6-4	325	Fr.
C	**Michael Fair**	**6-3**	**304**	**Sr.**	Kevin Sijansky	6-2	275	Jr.
G	Tommy Watson	6-5	310	Jr.	Kyle Wallace	6-5	318	So.
T	**Kendric Fairchild**	**6-4**	**319**	**Jr.**	*Derrick Thompson	6-6	290	Fr.
TE	Donald Lee	6-4	228	So.	**C.J. Sirmones**	**6-3**	**232**	**So.**
WR	Larry Huntington	5-10	181	Sr.	*Milas Randle	6-2	190	Fr.
QB	**Wayne Madkin**	**6-4**	**204**	**Jr.**	Brandon Butler	6-0	201	So.
RB	Dicenzo Miller	5-10	202	Jr.	**Justin Griffith**	**5-11**	**221**	**So.**
FB	Kenny Williamson	6-2	235	Jr.	Jamaal Dinkins	6-0	225	Sr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Conner Stephens**	**6-4**	**248**	**Jr.**	Rob Knight	6-1	220	Sr.
T	Ellis Wyms	6-3	272	Sr.	Willie Blade	6-2	303	Sr.
NG	Toby Golliday	6-2	310	Sr.	Darius Brown	6-0	280	Sr.
T	Dorsett Davis	6-6	304	Jr.	*Lennie Day	6-3	234	Fr.
E	Mario Haggan	6-3	258	So.	Dwayne Robertson	6-0	211	Jr.
LB	Barris Grant	6-1	236	Sr.	Nick Floyd	6-0	209	So.
S	**Pig Prather**	**6-3**	**192**	**Jr.**	George White	6-2	193	Sr.
S	Eugene Clinton	6-0	187	Sr.	Anthony Bryant	5-10	184	Jr.
CB	Shawn Byrdsong	5-9	175	Jr.	Julius Griffith	5-11	175	Jr.
FS	Josh Morgan	6-1	186	So.	Marco Minor	6-4	200	Jr.
CB	**Fred Smoot**	**6-1**	**173**	**Sr.**	Eugene Liger	6-0	200	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Scott Westerfield**	5-10	189	Sr.	P	Prentiss Cole	6-4	205	Jr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

SCOUTING THE BIG 12

Coaching may be hazardous to your health in a conference that demands results—fast

CONFERENCE RANK 2

By Kirk Bohls

The Big 12 should attach a Surgeon General's warning to its schools' contracts for football coaches: Coach here at your own risk.

Of the league's 12 head coaches, seven have been at their jobs for three seasons or fewer. Of the seven who now are gone, three were told it might be a good idea to clean out their desks and three others left without heartfelt thank-yous.

Mike Leach begins his head coaching career this season at Texas Tech, where the media-friendly, highly successful Spike Dykes stepped down after 13 seasons. Or was it pushed out? Bob Stoops has settled in at Oklahoma, but he should remember that three predecessors have sat behind his desk since 1994.

The Gary Barnett era at Colorado was ushered in last season with a 7-5 bowl season after Rick Neuheisel—take your pick—(a) ran off, (b) took a better job in Washington, (c) took too many rafting trips, or (d) couldn't meet the demands at Colorado.

Mack Brown at Texas and Frank Solich at Nebraska have enjoyed success in their two seasons, but they had best keep winning to justify high expectations and, in Brown's case, high dollars.

Despite knocking off Iowa the last two years and drastically improving the defense, Dan McCarney's hanging on for dear life at Iowa State and needs a winning season in year six. Larry Smith's in the same boat at Missouri and would be smart to score at least a point against a Kansas school after enduring 66-0 and 21-0 shellackings from the Wildcats and Jayhawks.

And the clock is running for Terry Allen, who was hired at Kansas in 1997 when the Jayhawks were weary from Glen Mason's constant flirtations with other schools. Allen isn't yet in serious trouble after winning three of his last five and taking Nebraska to the wire, but he needs to improve a 14-20 mark.

The bottom line: Big 12 coaches had better produce fast, often within two years of signing on the dotted line.

Ascending: Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. The Longhorns have won nine games each of the last two seasons. They may be a year away from any serious national title run, but they have a vastly improved defense and two of the league's best quarterbacks. Only a last-second bowl loss has slowed the Sooners' momentum. And Barnett, who has two incoming in-state *Parade* All-Americans, has the Buffs poised for great things.

Descending: Texas A&M, Oklahoma State and Missouri. The Aggies backtracked last season amid running game problems and could be headed for more trouble with a taxing schedule and no established quarterback. The Cowboys, depleted at linebacker and wide receiver, are poster boys for 5-6 seasons. And wasn't it the Tigers who were coming on just two short seasons ago?

Dream schedule: Kansas State, as usual, plays every patsy within the 50 states. Bill Snyder dropped USC from the 2001 schedule after learning this was not the University of South Carolina. Kansas has a cupcake schedule as well.

Nightmare schedule: Colorado might have to be coaxed to come out of the locker room in September. Its first six games are a survival course: Colorado State, USC and Washington, followed by Kansas State, Texas A&M and Texas. Can you say 0-6? Probably not, but a 3-3 start might be good news for Barnett.

Best matchup: Rick Neuheisel returns to Boulder September 16 as not so much the prodigal son, but the son who took the big bucks with Washington and prodded CU into hiring the Northwestern miracle worker to come home. Washington-Colorado Part II could get nasty.

Ugliest matchup: Take your pick from K-State-Iowa, K-State-Louisiana Tech, K-State-Ball State or K-State-North Texas. Ain't a keeper in the bunch. The four opponents combined for an 11-33 record last season.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Piece of cake: *In his first season at Kansas State, Morgan led the Big 12 in touchdown catches and set a record for yards per reception.*

UNIT RANKINGS	Offense				Defense				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
Baylor	9	10	10	11	12	8	4	8	11	12
Colorado	7	3	3	3	6	2	10	6	6	6
Iowa State	12	12	12	12	9	12	9	11	7	8
Kansas	5	4	6	5	11	9	5	9	8	10
Kansas St.	3	1	5	2	4	6	1	3	1	2
Missouri	11	8	7	9	8	7	6	7	12	9
Nebraska	1	2	1	1	3	5	3	2	2	1
Oklahoma	4	5	11	7	2	4	8	5	3	4
Oklahoma St.	10	11	8	10	5	10	11	10	4	7
Texas	2	9	2	4	7	3	2	4	9	3
Texas A&M	8	6	4	6	1	1	7	1	5	5
Texas Tech	6	7	9	8	10	11	12	12	10	11

Upset of the year: Oklahoma over Nebraska October 28. Josh Heupel completes 43-of-65 passes with five touchdowns in Norman. The Sooners, who have been outscored by Nebraska 179-28 in their last three meetings, knock off the Huskers for the first time since 1990, or three OU head coaches ago.

Bowl bound: Who ain't going? With the addition of the Galleryfurniture.com Bowl, seven Big 12 teams could land bids. Pencil in the Huskers, Wildcats, Longhorns, Sooners, Buffaloes and Aggies. Texas Tech and Kansas need a lot of things to go right.

Biggest shoes to fill: Finding someone to take over for Darren Davis at Iowa State won't be easy. There won't be a Davis carrying the ball in Ames for the first time since 1993, after Darren and older brother Troy combined for 10,185 all-purpose yards and 63 of the Cyclones' 149 touchdowns from 1994-99. Since younger brother Jason didn't qualify, ISU will choose from among Ennis Haywood, redshirt freshman Michael Wagner and freshman JaMaine Billups, the *USA Today* Player of the Year in Nebraska.

Most overrated player: This goes to one of the league's most oversized players. Texas A&M's Ja'Mar Toombs has had more scrapes with the law than he has with defensive linemen because he hates the idea of playing fullback and blocking every down. Some consider him selfish because he so desperately wants to be the featured back. He also has average hands.

Most underrated player: Kansas State's Quincy Morgan is, without question, the league's premier wide receiver. He caught only 42 passes, but he produced nine touchdowns (average distance 48.7 yards) and 1,007 yards. The 6-2, 215-pound senior averaged 24 yards a catch, which was at least six yards more than any other top 10 Big 12 receiver.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

You're a fullback: *At 6-0, 265, Toombs shouldn't mind getting hit—or hitting somebody.*

Best coach: How can anyone argue with Bill Snyder? What Snyder has done for the perennial doormat of college football is nothing short of remarkable. This is the first year in his tenure K-State has had no staff turnover.

Best staff: In two seasons, Mack Brown has not lost an assistant from a staff that includes primarily former head coaches and coordinators. Other colleges and even the NFL have come calling for coordinators Carl Reese and Greg Davis, but to no avail.

Coach on the hot seat: Make that the hot row. Larry Smith may have one foot out the door at MU. Bob Simmons might have both at OSU despite last fall's extension. Dan McCarney shouldn't dare break a chain letter. Even R.C. Slocum has lost much of his allure at Texas A&M despite a tremendous record.

Best bets: Kansas State's David Allen will return at least three kicks for touchdowns. He has seven and needs one to own the NCAA record. ... Chris Simms will supplant Major Applewhite, who is coming off major knee surgery in January, as Texas' starting quarterback because Applewhite might not be 100 percent and the taller, more mobile Simms has a bigger upside. ... Josh Heupel will throw for 500 yards in a game and will become Oklahoma's all-time career passer by the sixth game of his second season. ... TE Bo Scaife will catch 70 passes for the Longhorns and lead the team in receptions. ... Larry Smith's wife will not bake cookies for Missouri reporters on media day. ... Missouri DE Justin Smith, who is bigger (265 pounds) but just as fast (4.51), will consider leaving school early for the NFL. ... Aggie fans will miss former QB Randy McCown more than they think. ... Bill Snyder will lose an assistant to somebody. R.C. Slocum will fire an assistant. The Aggie boss has made 24 staff changes since 1989. In fairness, not all were fired, and some have better jobs, like Bob Davie (Notre Dame), Bob Toledo (UCLA), Tommy Tuberville (Auburn) and Mike Sherman (Green Bay Packers). ... Nebraska at K-State game November 11 could be between two undefeated, top-five-ranked teams.

Big 12 IN A NUTSHELL

PROJECTED CHAMPION: Nebraska

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Nebraska NORTH	QB Eric Crouch must stay healthy. Talented newcomers needed at LB and secondary.	QB Eric Crouch C Dominic Raiola	LB Carlos Polk E Kyle Vanden Bosch	Sept. 9 at Notre Dame Nov. 11 at Kansas State
2. Kansas State	Someone must carry the load at running back. Looking for playmakers at linebacker.	WR Quincy Morgan K Jamie Rheem	SS Jarrod Cooper T Mario Fatafehi	Aug. 26 vs. Iowa Nov. 11 vs. Nebraska
3. Kansas	Veteran skill-position talent has to make plays. Line is being rebuilt.	QB Dylen Smith RB David Winbush	FS Carl Nesmith P Joey Pelfanio	Sept. 2 at SMU Oct. 14 at Missouri
4. Colorado	Rebuilt line needs to jell quickly. Youngsters in secondary have to mature.	WR Javon Green TE Daniel Graham	LB Jashon Sykes E Brady McDonnell	Sept. 16 vs. Washington Sept. 30 vs. Kansas State
5. Missouri	Someone has to emerge at quarterback. Secondary needs to have learned from mistakes.	TE Dwayne Blakley WR Travis Garvin	E Justin Smith CB Julian Jones	Sept. 9 at Clemson Nov. 4 vs. Colorado
6. Iowa State	Must find replacement for RB Darren Davis. Strong line must be tough against the run.	QB Sage Rosenfels C Ben Bruns	E Reggie Hayward NG Ryan Harklau	Sept. 16 at Iowa Oct. 14 at Oklahoma State
1. Texas SOUTH	Quarterback controversy can't develop. Looking for pass-rushing ends.	RB Hodges Mitchell QB Major Applewhite	T Casey Hampton T Shaun Rogers	Sept. 16 at Stanford Oct. 7 vs. Oklahoma
2. Oklahoma	Line has to replace three starters. Secondary is searching for two new cornerbacks.	QB Josh Heupel TE Trent Smith	LB Rocky Calmus SS Roy Williams	Sept. 23 vs. Rice Oct. 7 vs. Texas
3. Texas A&M	Inexperienced line must protect new quarterback. Secondary looking for three new starters.	WR Chris Taylor FB Ja'Mar Toombs	LB Roylin Bradley LB Jason Glenn	Sept. 2 at Notre Dame Nov. 24 at Texas
4. Oklahoma State	QB Tony Lindsay must be allowed to make plays. Linebacking corps, secondary need rebuilding.	QB Tony Lindsay T Josh Lind	E Juqua Thomas CB Alvin Porter	Sept. 23 vs. Southern Miss Oct. 7 at Missouri
5. Texas Tech	There is little speed at receiver. Depth at linebacker, secondary is shaky.	RB Ricky Williams T Rex Richards	SS Kevin Curtis T Kris Kocurek	Sept. 2 vs. Utah State Oct. 28 at Kansas
6. Baylor	Veteran line has to set the tone. Young line lacks size.	RB Darrell Bush WR Andra Fuller	CB Gary Baxter LB Kris Micheaux	Sept. 16 vs. Minnesota Oct. 7 at Texas Tech

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-BIG 12

First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Quincy Morgan, Kansas State	6-2	215	Sr.
WR	Javon Green, Colorado	6-2	195	Sr.
TE	Tracey Wistrom, Nebraska	6-5	220	Jr.
T	Leonard Davis, Texas	6-6	367	Sr.
T	Josh Lind, Oklahoma State	6-6	280	Sr.
G	Antwan Kirk-Hughes, Texas	6-3	320	Jr.
G	Russ Hochstein, Nebraska	6-4	290	Sr.
C	Dominic Raiola, Nebraska	6-2	295	Jr.
QB	Eric Crouch, Nebraska	6-1	195	Jr.
RB	Hodges Mitchell, Texas	5-7	190	Sr.
RB	Ricky Williams, Texas Tech	5-9	190	Sr.

Defense

E	Justin Smith, Missouri	6-5	265	Jr.
E	Kyle Vanden Bosch, Nebraska	6-4	270	Sr.
T	Casey Hampton, Texas	6-1	305	Sr.
T	Shaun Rogers, Texas	6-4	315	Sr.
LB	Carlos Polk, Nebraska	6-2	250	Sr.
LB	Jashon Sykes, Colorado	6-3	230	Jr.
LB	Roylin Bradley, Texas A&M	6-1	230	Sr.
CB	Keyuo Craver, Nebraska	5-10	190	Jr.
CB	Gary Baxter, Baylor	6-2	195	Sr.
S	Jarrod Cooper, Kansas State	6-1	210	Sr.
S	Carl Nesmith, Kansas	6-3	215	Sr.

Specialists

K	Jamie Rheem, Kansas State	6-2	190	Sr.
P	Dan Hadenfeldt, Nebraska	5-11	195	Sr.
KR	David Allen, Kansas State	5-9	200	Sr.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Chris Anthony, Iowa State	6-3	204	Sr.
WR	Aaron Lockett, Kansas State	5-7	160	Jr.
TE	Daniel Graham, Colorado	6-3	235	Jr.
T	Dave Volk, Nebraska	6-5	300	Jr.
T	Rex Richards, Texas Tech	6-5	280	So.
G	Scott Kempenich, Oklahoma	6-5	315	Sr.
G	Chris Valletta, Texas A&M	6-3	287	Sr.
C	Andre Gurode, Colorado	6-4	305	Jr.
QB	Josh Heupel, Oklahoma	6-2	210	Sr.
RB	Dan Alexander, Nebraska	6-0	245	Sr.
RB	Cortlen Johnson, Colorado	5-9	195	Jr.

Defense

E	Brady McDonnell, Colorado	6-4	265	Sr.
E	Reggie Hayward, Iowa State	6-5	245	Sr.
T	Kris Kocurek, Texas Tech	6-5	290	Sr.
T	Mario Fatafehi, Kansas State	6-2	305	Sr.
LB	Rocky Calmus, Oklahoma	6-3	231	Jr.
LB	Jason Glenn, Texas A&M	6-1	235	Sr.
LB	Kris Micheaux, Baylor	6-1	262	Sr.
CB	Alvin Porter, Oklahoma State	6-0	180	Sr.
CB	Dyshod Carter, Kansas State	5-10	185	Sr.
S	Roy Williams, Oklahoma	6-0	220	So.
S	Kevin Curtis, Texas Tech	6-2	209	Jr.

Specialists

K	Kris Stockton, Texas	5-9	195	Sr.
P	Joey Pelfanio, Kansas	6-1	215	Sr.
KR	Bobby Newcombe, Nebraska	6-0	195	Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Offense: Greg Cicero, QB, Baylor

Defense: Anwawn Jones, E, Colorado

Odds and ends: With Kevin Steele keeping all of his assistants, it marks the first time in 11 years that Baylor has had zero turnover on its coaching staff. It has to help a program that is searching for its first winning season since 1995. ... Kansas signee Mario Kinsey was a point guard for Waco (Texas) LaVega's state champion basketball team and will play basketball for the Jayhawks as well. ... Missouri plucked two coaches, including offensive coordinator Bill Cubit, off Western Michigan's staff and will at times employ five receivers. One will be Justin Gage, who played some at quarterback last year. Coaches considered using him at linebacker in the spring because he's so athletic. He also plays for the Tigers' basketball team. ... Kansas FB Moran Norris is a bull of a running back who last year wore offensive lineman's shoulder pads and can bench-press 500 pounds. ... WR Kyle Shanahan, whose father Mike won a Super Bowl as head coach of the Denver Broncos, transferred from Duke to Texas and has three years of eligibility. ... Nebraska P Dan Hadenfeldt got a sixth year of eligibility. ... Missouri opens a new 149-seat press box with 35 luxury suites. ... Colorado is salivating over RB Marcus Houston, who is such a model citizen he was scheduled to take farm tools, books and educational materials to villages in Ghana this summer. ... After finishing last in the league in pass defense, Kansas will double up with two secondary coaches, Dick Moseley and newcomer Tim Burke, who arrives from Purdue. ... Another Kansas coach, quarterbacks assistant Jay Johnson, has the unique distinction of having been the starting quarterback at Northern Iowa with Kurt Warner as his backup. Yep, that Kurt Warner, the NFL MVP last year for the Super Bowl champion St. Louis Rams. ... R.C. Slocum's son, Shawn, returns from Southern California to handle special teams at Texas A&M, which didn't have a return touchdown last season for the first time since 1992.

Recruiting

RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Marcus Houston	RB	6-2/200	Denver, Colo./Jefferson	Colorado
2. B.J. Johnson	WR	6-1/180	Grand Prairie, Texas/South	Texas
3. Wes Sims	OL	6-6/295	Weatherford, Okla./Weatherford	Oklahoma
4. Quinn Sypniewski	DL	6-6/255	Johnson, Iowa/Johnson	Colorado
5. Brock Edwards	TE	6-5/250	Ft. Worth, Texas/Christian	Texas
6. Roy Williams	WR	6-4/200	Odessa, Texas/Permian	Texas
7. Sloan Thomas	WR	6-2/190	Houston, Texas/Klein	Texas
8. Craig Ochs	QB	6-2/205	Boulder, Colo./Fairview	Colorado
9. Marcel Moses	DL	6-4/300	Texas City, Texas/Texas City	Texas
10. Chance Mock	QB	6-2/195	The Woodlands, Texas/The Woodlands	Texas
11. Kalen Thornton	DL	6-4/260	Dallas, Texas/St. Marks	Texas
12. Kevin Long	QB	6-5/200	Iowa City, Iowa/West	Kansas
13. Ronbrose Jones	LB	6-3/217	Bristow, Okla./Bristow	Oklahoma
14. Chris Boggas	OL	6-4/305	Irving, Texas/Irving	Kansas State
15. Renaldo Works	RB	6-1/190	Tulsa, Okla./Washington	Oklahoma
16. Adam Black	CB	6-0/175	Houston, Texas/Cy Falls	Texas A&M
17. Jason Richenberger	LB	6-2/200	Liberty, Mo./Liberty	Nebraska
18. Chris Septak	TE	6-5/235	Omaha, Neb./Millard West	Nebraska
19. Adam Doiron	DE	6-4/260	Duncan, Okla./Duncan	Texas
20. Tatum Bell	RB	6-0/180	DeSoto, Texas/DeSoto	Oklahoma State
21. Stevie Lee	DT	6-5/310	Shreveport, La./Evangel Christian	Texas
22. Thunder Collins	RB	6-2/200	Los Angeles, Calif./East Los Angeles JC	Nebraska
23.Jammal Brown	DT	6-6/310	Lawton, Okla./MacArthur	Oklahoma
24. Robert Ferguson	WR	6-2/205	Houston, Texas/Tyler, Texas JC	Texas A&M
25. Sonny Davis	DT	6-2/309	Austin, Texas/Lanier	Texas
26. Bob Pesavento	QB	6-5/230	Schererville, Ind./Fort Scott, Kan., CC	Colorado
27. Martin Flaum	OL	6-4/295	Denver, Colo./Northglen	Nebraska
28. Ervin Holloman	DE	6-4/285	Wichita, Kan./Garden City, Kan., CC	Kansas
29. Marcus Jasmine	DE	6-5/270	New Orleans, La./De La Salle	Texas A&M
30. Terrance Simms	CB	5-11/175	Belle Glades, Fla./Hutchinson, Kan., JC	Oklahoma
31. Roger Ross	WR	5-10/175	Denver, Colo./Garden City, Kan., CC	Kansas
32. Ira Cooper	LB	6-2/220	Omaha, Neb./Westside	Nebraska
33. Lionel Garr	OL	6-6/235	Diboll, Texas/Diboll	Texas
34. Linnis Smith	DE	6-5/260	Tyler, Texas/John Tyler	Texas A&M
35. Lornell McPherson	DB	5-10/175	Omaha, Neb./Central	Nebraska
36. JaiMaine Billups	RB	6-0/200	Omaha, Neb./Central	Iowa State
37. Demond Benford	DE	6-4/200	Brenham, Texas/Blinn JC Texas	Kansas
38. Antwaun Bryan	LB	6-2/220	St. Louis, Mo./Hutchinson, Kan., CC	Missouri
39. Mike Erickson	OL	6-4/275	Papillion, Neb./LaVista	Nebraska
40. Keith Joseph	RB	6-3/220	Houston, Texas/Lamar	Texas A&M

RANKING the CLASSES

1. Texas	4. Colorado	7. Oklahoma St.	10. Iowa State
2. Nebraska	5. Texas A&M	8. Kansas State	11. Baylor
3. Oklahoma	6. Kansas	9. Missouri	12. Texas Tech

Players of the Year

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

OFFENSE

Eric Crouch, QB, Nebraska

He may not win the Heisman. He may not be everyone's spiral-throwing All-American. But no quarterback runs his offense better than Eric Crouch.

Crouch (6-1, 195), a junior, was born and raised to run the option. He grew up in Omaha, where he ran the power option at Millard North High. The way he runs the Nebraska offense, with a combination of poise, understanding and timing, he looks like he spent his whole life watching film of Huskers practices and taking notes at games.

It took Crouch three years, including a redshirt season, to win the starting job. But once he got it, he transformed everything. After splitting playing time with Bobby Newcombe in the first two games last season, Crouch won the job with consistency and big plays. He ran for 889 yards and 16 touchdowns and completed 83-of-160 passes for 1,269 yards and seven touchdowns. Suddenly, Crouch has put himself in conversations in coffee shops all over Nebraska. Will he be the best ever at Nebraska? Crouch looks like the consummate Huskers quarterback, with the leadership of Turner Gill, the heart of Tommie Frazier and the toughness of Scott Frost.

"I don't know how I compare," Crouch says. "A lot of those quarterbacks were great leaders, they made plays, they were durable, they ran the offense well and they knew how to win games. I think that's something our program looks for in quarterbacks."

Crouch's continued progress will depend on if he stays healthy—he had a scope done on his right shoulder and had limited activity in the spring but is expected to be OK—and if junior college running back Thunder Collins can be a breakaway threat. —*Tom Shatel*

PAUL NISELEY / TSN

DEFENSE

Justin Smith, E, Missouri

Justin Smith leaps blockers in a single bound and tracks down running backs like a jaguar. Missouri coach Larry Smith compares his star end to Junior Seau. Colorado coach Gary Barnett had his team watch a highlight film of Smith's plays. How good can the 6-5, 265-pound junior be? That's what Mizzou defensive coordinator Moe Ankney hopes to discover this year. He knows something is missing from Smith's game.

It's not numbers. Smith has 171 tackles in two seasons, including 85 last year with 13 for losses and a school single-season record-tying eight sacks. Ankney sees Smith as a legend-in-progress.

"He's been playing mainly on his physical ability, his size, strength and speed," says Ankney. "He's a good player now. But if he wants to be a great player, he needs to start playing smarter, with better technique. If and when he does, he can be a great player."

In essence, Ankney wants Smith to become more of a team player, to play with a controlled chaos. He needs to stay home and do his job instead of trying to be the hero every play.

"His frame of mind is to go get the football," Ankney says. "He brings football down to its simplest form. That's good. But we need him in a team concept. Don't just see the ball and go after it. But read the blocks in front of you and then control those blocks.

"I like to talk about Grant Wistrom, who we saw ... at Nebraska. He was big and strong, but he was such a smart player with great technique. You can't just be big and strong in the NFL. You've got to be smart. Justin wants to do it. He's going to work hard to do it. But sometimes, old habits are hard to break." —*Tom Shatel*

Big 12

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Darren Davis, Iowa State, Sr.	11	287	1,388	4.8	14	126.2
2. Hodges Mitchell, Texas, Jr.	**13**	**255**	**1,346**	**5.3**	**9**	**103.5**
3. Cortlen Johnson, Colorado, So.	**10**	**172**	**835**	**4.9**	**8**	**83.5**
4. Eric Crouch, Nebraska, So.	**12**	**180**	**889**	**4.9**	**16**	**74.1**
5. DeVaughn Black, Missouri, Sr.	10	169	740	4.4	2	74.0
6. Dan Alexander, Nebraska, Jr.	**12**	**134**	**865**	**6.5**	**8**	**72.1**
7. Zain Gilmore, Missouri, So.	**11**	**188**	**764**	**4.1**	**6**	**69.5**
8. Joe Hall, Kansas State, Jr.	**9**	**121**	**613**	**5.1**	**6**	**68.1**
9. Shaud Williams, Texas Tech, Fr.	**10**	**112**	**658**	**5.9**	**7**	**65.8**
10. Darrell Bush, Baylor, Jr.	**11**	**162**	**681**	**4.2**	**2**	**61.9**

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Mike Moschetti, Colorado, Sr.	10	331	204	.616	12	2,693	8.1	18	140.7
2. Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech, Fr.	**10**	**57**	**25**	**.439**	**1**	**492**	**8.6**	**4**	**136.0**
3. Jonathan Beasley, Kan. St., Jr.	**11**	**203**	**90**	**.443**	**7**	**1,805**	**8.9**	**14**	**134.9**
4. Josh Heupel, Oklahoma, Jr.	**11**	**500**	**310**	**.620**	**15**	**3,460**	**6.9**	**30**	**133.9**
5. Major Applewhite, Texas, So.	**13**	**467**	**271**	**.580**	**9**	**3,349**	**7.2**	**21**	**129.3**
6. Randy McCown, Texas A&M, Sr.	11	295	152	.515	10	2,374	8.1	14	128.0
7. Eric Crouch, Nebraska, So.	**12**	**160**	**83**	**.519**	**4**	**1,269**	**7.9**	**7**	**127.9**
8. B.J. Tiger, Oklahoma St., So.	**11**	**111**	**61**	**.549**	**4**	**785**	**7.1**	**6**	**125.0**
9. Sage Rosenfels, Iowa State, Jr.	**11**	**235**	**127**	**.540**	**11**	**1,781**	**7.6**	**10**	**122.4**
10. Dylen Smith, Kansas, Fr.	**12**	**263**	**135**	**.513**	**7**	**1,599**	**6.1**	**12**	**112.1**

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Kwame Cavil, Texas, Jr.	13	100	1,188	6	7.7	11.9
2. Brandon Daniels, Oklahoma, Sr.	10	51	605	4	5.1	11.9
3. Ryan Nunez, Texas, Sr.	13	56	600	3	4.3	10.7
4. Jarrail Jackson, Oklahoma, Sr.	11	44	583	6	4.0	13.3
5. Quincy Morgan, Kansas State, Jr.	**11**	**42**	**1,007**	**9**	**3.8**	**23.9**
6. Javon Green, Colorado, Jr.	**11**	**40**	**663**	**7**	**3.6**	**16.6**
7. Marcus Stiggers, Colorado, Sr.	11	37	625	4	3.4	16.9
7. Chris Anthony, Iowa State, Jr.	**11**	**37**	**432**	**1**	**3.4**	**11.7**
9. Travis Garvin, Missouri, Fr.	**11**	**36**	**608**	**2**	**3.3**	**16.9**
10. Michael Chandler, Kansas, Sr.	12	36	473	4	3.0	13.1
10. Chris Taylor, Texas A&M, Jr.	**11**	**33**	**591**	**4**	**3.0**	**17.9**

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Nebraska (4)	265.9
2. Iowa State (17	200.5
3. Kansas State (24)	184.7
4. Kansas (36)	171.1
5. Missouri (40)	160.2
6. Oklahoma State (47)	154.1
7. Colorado (51)	151.2
8. Texas Tech (53)	149.5
9. Texas A&M (60)	145.6
10. Texas (73)	135.3
11. Baylor (95)	109.7
12. Oklahoma (97)	105.5

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Oklahoma (9)	321.7
2. Texas (17)	274.8
3. Colorado (18)	273.7
4. Texas A&M (43)	228.5
5. Kansas State (75)	190.0
6. Missouri (83)	177.7
7. Texas Tech (85)	175.4
8. Iowa State (86)	174.0
9. Kansas (90)	161.6
10. Oklahoma State (93)	159.2
11. Nebraska (107)	126.3
12. Baylor (108)	120.3

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Oklahoma (11)	427.2
2. Colorado (14)	424.9
3. Texas (29)	410.1
4. Nebraska (44)	392.2
5. Kansas State (55)	374.7
6. Iowa State (56)	374.5
7. Texas A&M (58)	374.1
8. Missouri (79)	337.9
9. Kansas (83)	332.7
10. Texas Tech (87)	324.8
11. Oklahoma State (92)	313.3
12. Baylor (113)	230.0

Defense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Nebraska (6)	77.3
2. Texas (17)	105.7
3. Kansas State (22)	111.0
4. Oklahoma State (23)	112.9
5. Texas A&M (25)	114.3
6. Oklahoma (37)	125.2
7. Texas Tech (56)	145.3
8. Kansas (63)	150.3
9. Missouri (66)	153.3
10. Colorado (83)	171.5
11. Iowa State (99)	203.0
12. Baylor (107)	219.7

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. Kansas State (1)	65.7
2. Nebraska (2)	87.9
3. Texas (12)	101.6
4. Texas A&M (14)	105.0
5. Colorado (22)	108.4
6. Oklahoma State (24)	109.4
7. Texas Tech (25)	109.4
8. Iowa State (29)	111.5
9. Oklahoma (46)	114.8
10. Missouri (81)	127.5
11. Baylor (87)	131.0
12. Kansas (102)	138.3

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Kansas State (2)	235.0
2. Nebraska (4)	251.8
3. Texas (6)	286.7
4. Oklahoma State (10)	297.5
5. Texas A&M (13)	300.9
6. Texas Tech (37)	340.0
7. Oklahoma (39)	344.4
8. Colorado (41)	347.6
9. Missouri (44)	350.3
10. Iowa State (45)	351.7
11. Kansas (74)	383.7
12. Baylor (102)	422.5

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Nebraska

NATIONAL RANK 1

Coach: Frank Solich (21-5, 2 years)
Offensive coordinator: Frank Solich (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Craig Bohl (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Option
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 24
Lettermen returning: 61
Site: Lincoln, Neb.
Stadium: Memorial (turf, 74,031)
Last league title won: 1999 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1968
1999 TSN rank: 3
1999 record: 12-1 (beat Tennessee in Fiesta Bowl). Big 12 North: 7-1/T1st

1999 Results

at Iowa, W, 42-7
California, W, 45-0
Southern Miss, W, 20-13
at Missouri, W, 40-10
Oklahoma State, W, 38-14
Iowa State, W, 49-14
at Texas, L, 24-20
at Kansas, W, 24-17
Texas A&M, W, 37-0
Kansas State, W, 41-15
at Colorado, W, 33-30
Texas, W, 22-6
Tennessee, W, 31-21

Schedule

S2—San Jose State
S9—at Notre Dame
S23—Iowa
S30—Missouri
O7—at Iowa State
O14—at Texas Tech
O21—Baylor
O28—at Oklahoma
N4—Kansas
N11—at Kansas State
N24—Colorado

Offensive philosophy: Boring. Smash-mouth. Simplistic. Archaic. Painfully effective. Nebraska's offense goes by many monikers. A lot has changed in college football over the years, but one thing has not: the Cornhuskers will line up and try to run over you.

Offensive stars: The offense has many dangerous weapons, and they revolve around QB Eric Crouch, a gutsy playmaker who last year became the first quarterback to lead the team in rushing (889 yards) since 1955. One knock on Nebraska is that it hasn't had a star at I-back since Ahman Green in '97, and of the eight I-backs in spring camp, none appeared to show that promise. Fans hope Thunder Collins, a speedy junior college transfer who isn't eligible until fall, will have as much game as name. Hopes are high for former QB Bobby Newcombe, who has turned his attention to wingback and could be used at wideout or I-back. TE Tracey Wistrom, the younger brother of former All-American DE Grant, had a breakout year and is an any-down weapon. Linemen are stars at Nebraska, and that's especially true this year. A line touted as one of the school's best is led by two Outland Trophy candidates: G Russ Hochstein and fiery junior C Dominic Raiola.

Offensive concerns: Depth at quarterback. Offseason surgery on Crouch's throwing shoulder didn't heal as quickly as expected, and he was held out of contact all spring. His backup, freshman Jammal Lord, went down in the spring with a knee injury, and depth is dangerously thin. Then there's the chronic case of fumble-itis. Will it return? All eyes will be on Frank Solich, who still insists on being offensive coordinator, to see if he can keep everyone happy.

Defensive philosophy: Even with tactician Craig Bohl taking over for the instinctive Charlie McBride as coordinator, the Huskers will continue the attacking 4-3 that served them so well in the '90s.

Defensive stars: Carlos Polk might be the best middle linebacker in NU history. The Huskers have a solid anchor up front in senior T Loran Kaiser, and senior rush E Kyle Vanden Bosch is another of the great ends this defense has produced in recent years. Senior SS Joe Walker and junior CB Keyuo Craver should step up to replace Mike Brown and Ralph Brown.

Defensive concerns: Two new linebackers are needed, and though junior WLB Randy Stella has great athleticism, it's unknown whether he's the playmaker that spot requires. Can junior right CB Erwin Swiney return to form after missing last year with a medical redshirt?

Special teams: Potentially great. Newcombe, Walker and Craver are loaded dynamite at the return positions. K Josh Brown had a nice rookie year, hitting 14-of-20 field goals, including a 31-yarder in the Fiesta Bowl and a 42-yarder in the Big 12 title game. The real bonus is the return of P Dan Hadenfeldt, who was granted a sixth year by the NCAA in the offseason after setting an NU record with a 44.98-yard average.

Head coach: Solich earned his stripes in a tumultuous season that included promoting Crouch and dismissing I-back DeAngelo Evans early in the season. After a rookie year in which he seemed uncomfortable and slow to make decisions, Solich, now in his third year, is quickly separating himself from the Tom Osborne era.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Good company: *Raiola was the first Huskers center to win first-team all-conference honors as a sophomore since Dave Rimington in 1980.*

Schedule: It sets up nicely for a national-title run, with visits from San Jose State and Iowa sandwiched around a game at Notre Dame that should be good for mega-BCS points. Survive trips to Oklahoma and Kansas State, and the Huskers should be headed for "home-field" advantage in the Big 12 title game in Kansas City and an ensuing trip to the Orange Bowl.

Bottom line: Anyone who saw NU drive the length of the field twice in the fourth quarter against Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl saw a team that could have played in the Sugar Bowl. There's more confidence now in Solich, too. If tough-guy Crouch can stay healthy and the I-backs can hold on to the ball, there's no reason this shouldn't be a smooth ride to Miami.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Matt Davison**	**6-1**	**185**	**Sr.**	Wilson Thomas	6-5	210	So.
T	**Dave Volk**	**6-5**	**300**	**Jr.**	Nate Kolterman	6-3	310	So.
G	Toniu Fonoti	6-4	330	So.	Jon Rutherford	6-3	300	Jr.
C	**Dominic Raiola**	**6-2**	**295**	**Jr.**	Matt Shook	6-2	280	So.
G	**Russ Hochstein**	**6-4**	**290**	**Sr.**	Steve Altstadt	6-5	280	Jr.
T	**Jason Schwab**	**6-1**	**300**	**Sr.**	Kyle Kollmorgen	6-5	295	Jr.
TE	**Tracey Wistrom**	**6-5**	**220**	**Jr.**	**Aaron Golliday**	**6-4**	**270**	**So.**
QB	**Eric Crouch**	**6-1**	**195**	**Jr.**	*Jammal Lord	6-2	195	Fr.
IB	**Dan Alexander**	**6-0**	**245**	**Sr.**	Correll Buckhalter	6-0	225	Sr.
WB	**Bobby Newcombe**	**6-0**	**195**	**Sr.**	John Gibson	6-0	185	Sr.
FB	**Willie Miller**	**6-1**	**245**	**Sr.**	*Judd Davies	6-0	240	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold **Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Demoine Adams	6-2	235	So.	Chris Kelsay	6-5	270	So.
T	Jason Lohr	6-2	280	Jr.	Jon Clanton	6-2	290	So.
T	**Loran Kaiser**	**6-4**	**295**	**Sr.**	Jeremy Slechta	6-6	290	Jr.
E	**Kyle Vanden Bosch**	**6-4**	**270**	**Sr.**	J.P. Wichmann	6-4	230	Jr.
OLB	Scott Shanle	6-2	230	So.	Rod Baker	6-0	220	Sr.
MLB	**Carlos Polk**	**6-2**	**250**	**Sr.**	Jamie Burrow	6-1	235	Jr.
OLB	Randy Stella	6-0	210	Jr.	Mark Vedral	5-11	210	Jr.
CB	**Keyuo Craver**	**5-10**	**190**	**Jr.**	Jeff Hemje	6-0	185	Jr.
SS	Joe Walker	5-10	195	Sr.	**Clint Finley**	**6-0**	**205**	**Sr.**
FS	**Dion Booker**	**6-1**	**205**	**Jr.**	**Clint Finley**	**6-0**	**205**	**Sr.**
CB	**Erwin Swiney**	**6-0**	**185**	**Jr.**	DeJuan Groce	5-10	190	So.

Special Teams

K	**Josh Brown**	**6-2**	**185**	**So.**	**P**	**Dan Hadenfeldt**	**5-11**	**195**	**Sr.**

More on Nebraska at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/nebraska/ AOL keyword: TSN

2 Kansas State

NATIONAL RANK 5

Coach: Bill Snyder (88-40-1, 11 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ron Hudson (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: Phil Bennett (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 13
Lettermen returning: 47
Site: Manhattan, Kan.
Stadium: KSU (turf, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1934 (Big Eight)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1992
1999 TSN rank: 6
1999 record: 11-1 (beat Washington in Holiday Bowl). Big 12 North: 7-1/T1st.

1999 Results

Temple, W, 40-0
UTEP, W, 40-7
at Iowa State, W, 35-28
at Texas, W, 35-17
Kansas, W, 50-9
Utah State, W, 40-0
at Oklahoma St., W, 44-21
Baylor, W, 48-7
Colorado, W, 20-14
at Nebraska, L, 41-15
Missouri, W, 66-0
Washington, W, 24-20

Schedule

A26—Iowa*
S2—Louisiana Tech
S16—Ball State
S23—North Texas
S30—at Colorado
O7—at Kansas
O14—Oklahoma
O21—Texas Tech
O28—at Texas A&M
N4—Iowa State
N11—Nebraska
N18—at Missouri
*at Kansas City, Mo.

Offensive philosophy: The Wildcats run an explosive pro set, keyed by playmaking quarterbacks and receivers.
Offensive stars: Senior TB David Allen has Heisman Trophy-contending moves and speed, but he's most dangerous as a return man. With the uncertainty of Joe Hall, Allen, who rushed for 364 yards in six starts in '99, enters as the No. 1 running back. Fans can't wait to see the speedy and elusive freshman Ell Roberson at quarterback, but senior Jonathan Beasley won't just hand him the job. Last season Beasley was only the seventh Wildcat to produce more than 2,000 yards (1,805 passing, 227 rushing, 22 touchdowns), but his completion rate of 44 percent must improve. K-State has two big-time, big-play receivers in senior Quincy Morgan, who led the team with 42 catches (14 for longer than 25 yards) and 48.7 yards per touchdown catch last year, and junior Aaron Lockett.
Offensive concerns: As long as Allen is returning punts and kicks, field position won't be a concern. But there are other concerns. Can Beasley, the Holiday Bowl Offensive MVP, hold off Roberson or will there be a quarterback controversy? At running back, Allen may be explosive but he has been inconsistent and at times been in Bill Snyder's doghouse. With Hall's academic eligibility uncertain, Allen's backup may be Josh Scobey, a second-team JC All-American (2,423 yards, 31 touchdowns) from Northeastern (Okla.) A&M. The line must break in two new starters.
Defensive philosophy: The strength of the attacking 4-3 has been turning lose the speedy linebackers. That can leave the secondary vulnerable but Snyder always has made sure the secondary is stocked with speed.
Defensive stars: SS Jarrod Cooper and CB Dyshod Carter are both four-year starters and third-year starting CB Jerametrius Butler anchors a secondary that led the nation in pass efficiency defense.
Defensive concerns: Finding new playmakers to replace All-America LB Mark Simoneau and All-Big 12 DE Darren Howard, the heart and soul of the meanest, fastest defense in school history. There's still plenty of speed around, but only one linebacker, junior Ben Leber, returns, and he's moving from the middle to strongside, where Simoneau dominated. Senior T Mario Fatafehi will have to build on his '99 season, when he was named the Big 12 defensive newcomer. Senior Chris Johnson, who rotated with Howard and returnee Monty Beisel, now gets his turn. The biggest challenge will be replacing Simoneau; not just his playmaking, but the confidence and aura he provided.
Special teams: There may not be a better unit in the country. Allen might prove to be the best punt returner in college history. He enters the season just 172 yards behind Lee Nalley of Vanderbilt as the NCAA career punt return leader and he needs one touchdown return to break the NCAA mark of seven shared by Nebraska's Johnny Rodgers and Oklahoma's Jack Mitchell. Senior Jamie Rheem, last season's runner-up for the Lou Groza Award, is the nation's top returning kicker. Travis Brown and Mike Ronsick split the punting duties in 1999 and figure to battle in 2000.
Head coach: Bill Snyder has lost his share of assistants, taken his hits for soft-serve schedules and rebuilt with fresh JC faces. But what Snyder has built is rock solid and there isn't a more feared coach in the Big 12.
Schedule: Finally, some bite. Sure, Iowa's not going to the Rose Bowl and Louisiana Tech isn't Penn State. But it saves some face while enabling Snyder to build his precious momentum before key games with Oklahoma, at Texas A&M and with Nebraska. In that November 11 showdown with the Huskers, KSU no doubt will want to prove what happened two years ago was no fluke.
Bottom line: Until Colorado proves otherwise, Kansas State is Nebraska's No. 1 challenger in the North. If questions are answered at quarterback and running back and new playmakers are found on defense, the Wildcats could go into the Nebraska game undefeated.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Talented unit: *Carter, a senior cornerback, is part of a secondary that returns three starters and ranks among the best in the nation.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Aaron Lockett**	**5-7**	**160**	**Jr.**	Martez Wesley	5-11	180	Sr.
T	Milford Stephenson	6-2	275	Sr.	Matt Martin	6-5	270	Jr.
G	Andy Eby	6-3	280	Jr.	Oshin Honarchian	6-5	290	Jr.
C	**Randall Cummins**	**6-3**	**285**	**Sr.**	Dan Divilbiss	6-2	280	Jr.
G	Steve Washington	6-4	315	So.	Grant Reves	6-6	295	Sr.
T	**John Robertson**	**6-4**	**280**	**Jr.**	Chris Bailes	6-6	280	So.
TE	**Shad Meier**	**6-5**	**250**	**Sr.**	Nick Warren	6-7	255	Jr.
WR	**Quincy Morgan**	**6-2**	**215**	**Sr.**	Brandon Clark	6-3	220	Jr.
QB	**Jonathan Beasley**	**6-1**	**215**	**Sr.**	*Ell Roberson	6-0	190	Fr.
RB	**David Allen**	**5-9**	**200**	**Sr.**	Chris Claybon	5-10	190	Sr.
FB	**Johnno Lazetich**	**6-1**	**240**	**Sr.**	*Brandt Quick	6-1	235	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Monty Beisel**	**6-3**	**255**	**Sr.**	Melvin Williams	6-3	245	So.
T	**Cliff Holloman**	**6-4**	**275**	**Sr.**	DeVane Robinson	6-1	285	Jr.
T	**Mario Fatafehi**	**6-2**	**305**	**Sr.**	Jerry Togiai	6-4	295	Jr.
E	Chris Johnson	6-1	255	Sr.	*Andrew Shull	6-5	230	Fr.
OLB	**Ben Leber**	**6-3**	**250**	**Jr.**	Andy Klocke	6-2	220	So.
MLB	Turelle Williams	6-4	240	Sr.	*Josh Buhl	6-0	205	Fr.
OLB	Jason Kazar	6-0	225	Sr.	Da'Von Brame	6-2	225	Sr.
CB	**Jerametrius Butler**	**5-10**	**180**	**Jr.**	Adrian Beard	5-8	182	Sr.
SS	**Jarrod Cooper**	**6-1**	**210**	**Sr.**	Milton Proctor	6-0	200	Jr.
FS	Jon McGraw	6-3	200	Jr.	Terence Newman	5-11	170	So.
CB	**Dyshod Carter**	**5-10**	**185**	**Sr.**	DeRon Tyler	5-8	170	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Jamie Rheem**	**6-2**	**190**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Travis Brown**	**6-4**	**215**	**So.**	**Mike Ronsick**	**6-2**	**190**	**Jr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

3 Kansas

NATIONAL RANK 37

Coach: Terry Allen (14-20, 3 years; 89-46 overall, 11 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bill Salmon (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Ardell Wiegandt (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 41
Site: Lawrence, Kan.
Stadium: Memorial (turf, 50,250)
Last league title won: 1968 (Big Eight)
Last bowl appearance: 1995
1999 TSN rank: 71
1999 record: 5-7, Big 12 North: 3-5/4th

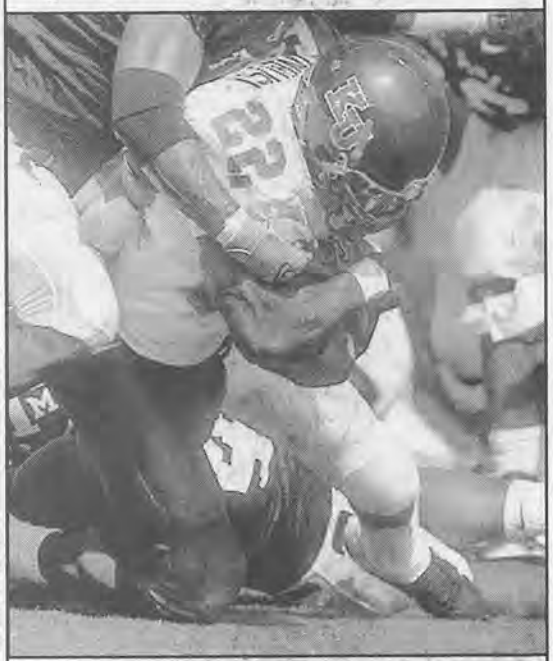
1999 Results

at Notre Dame, L, 48-13
CS Northridge, W, 71-14
at Colorado, L, 51-17
San Diego State, L, 41-13
SMU, W, 27-9
at Kansas State, L, 50-9
at Texas A&M, L, 34-17
Missouri, W, 21-0
Nebraska, L, 24-17
Baylor, W, 45-10
at Oklahoma, L, 45-13
Iowa State, W, 31-28

Schedule

S2—at SMU
S16—UAB
S23—Southern Illinois
S30—at Oklahoma
O7—Kansas State
O14—at Missouri
O21—Colorado
O28—Texas Tech
N4—at Nebraska
N11—Texas
N18—at Iowa State

Offensive philosophy: The imaginative Terry Allen loves to try most anything in his multiple scheme, but he has learned you have to run the ball, too, to survive in the Big 12.
Offensive stars: Exciting QB Dylen Smith had taken just a few snaps before his first start in the fifth game last season, but it didn't stop him from amassing the 10th-best total offensive output (1,750 yards) in KU history. Allen can't wait to find out what Smith, who can run, throw and throw on the run, will do his senior year with a spring practice—a stellar one at that—under his blue belt. He'll have plenty of targets to choose from, including junior Harrison Hill, the team's leading receiver last season with 29 catches for 506 yards and four touchdowns. All eyes are on the exciting progress of junior Termaine Fulton and sophomore Byron Gasaway, a pair of game-breakers who missed last year with medical redshirts. Senior RB David Winbush, who rushed for 595 yards and six touchdowns while fighting numerous injuries, is back and healthy. He'll run behind FB Moran Norris and a line that returns three starters in Ts Justin Hartwig and John Oddonetto and C Marc Owen.
Offensive concerns: Chemistry along the line. Owen is moving from right guard to center and he'll be surrounded by two new faces, sophomore Justin Sands on the left and senior Chuck Jarvis on the right. KU made a big leap in offensive production last season and the line's development will be a major factor this season.
Defensive philosophy: The Jayhawks run a 3-4 formation and last year Allen used it to shore up a leaky run defense, cutting nearly 80 yards off the team's '98 run defensive average of 235.6 yards allowed a game.
Defensive stars: Senior FS Carl Nesmith, a first-team All-Big 12 pick who is nicknamed "The Butcher" for his vicious hits, leads a secondary that returns three starters, including CB Andrew Davison and SS Kareem High. A veteran linebacking corps is led by junior ILB Andrew LeClair, who made honorable mention all-league with 102 tackles in his first year as a starter.
Defensive concerns: Nine regulars return at linebacker and in the secondary, which is key because there are questions galore up front. Junior Nate Dwyer, who has seven career starts at nose tackle, is the only defensive lineman with Division I-A experience. Otherwise, there are a number of redshirt and JC hopefuls. Until they develop, pressure and run support will fall on the linebackers and secondary.
Special teams: The Jayhawks look solid, with third-team all-league P Joey Pelfanio and senior K Joe Garcia (30-of-49 in three years) returning. Henri Childs and Nesmith also are back after helping KU rank in the upper half of the Big 12 in returns.
Head coach: Some folks already were grumbling after Allen dabbled with the Iowa job before last season. Then, after a 2-5 start that included a 41-13 home defeat to San Diego State, it looked like his third year at Kansas might be his last. The switch to Smith at quarterback may have saved Allen and his team's season. Some still are wondering when Allen will deliver on his reputation for developing quarterbacks and high-octane offenses. This may be the year.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Mighty mite: *Like Tony Sands nearly a decade ago, Winbush has excelled in the KU backfield despite lacking ideal running back size.*

Schedule: Much friendlier without the opener at Notre Dame. With the opener now at Southern Methodist and visits by Alabama-Birmingham and Southern Illinois, Kansas has a shot at a 3-0 start and some needed confidence heading into the Big 12 opener at Oklahoma on September 30. A midseason swing through Missouri and against Colorado and Texas Tech will make or break the season. If the Jayhawks are fat and sassy by November 11, watch out Texas.
Bottom line: The Jayhawks will go as far as Smith's explosive arm and legs can take them. There should be at least six wins on this schedule and, with Colorado and Missouri so uncertain, this might as well be the year Allen's squad breaks into the North Division's top three and earns a bowl bid.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Harrison Hill**	**5-11**	**190**	**Jr.**	Byron Gasaway	6-4	195	So.
T	**John Oddonetto**	**6-5**	**290**	**Sr.**	Gabe Rosalis	6-5	275	So.
G	Justin Sands	6-7	285	So.	Kyle Grady	6-4	280	So.
C	**Marc Owen**	**6-3**	**305**	**Sr.**	Bob Schmidt	6-2	280	Sr.
G	Chuck Jarvis	6-6	300	Sr.	Jason Stevenson	6-2	285	So.
T	**Justin Hartwig**	**6-4**	**290**	**Jr.**	Adam Miller	6-5	250	Jr.
TE	**David Hurst**	**6-3**	**245**	**So.**	Jason Gulley	6-3	260	Sr.
WR	Termaine Fulton	5-10	188	Jr.	Algen Williams	6-1	190	Sr.
QB	**Dylen Smith**	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**	*Zach Dyer	6-3	200	Fr.
RB	**David Winbush**	**5-7**	**180**	**Sr.**	Henri Childs	6-2	215	Jr.
FB	**Moran Norris**	**6-2**	**245**	**Sr.**	Mitchell Scott	6-3	230	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	*Lance Carson	6-5	275	Fr.	Marquis Hayes	6-4	250	Jr.
NT	**Nate Dwyer**	**6-3**	**300**	**Jr.**	Ryan Atkinson	6-2	295	Jr.
E	*Tony Strickland	6-6	240	Fr.	Marquis Hayes	6-4	250	Jr.
OLB	**Chaz Murphy**	**6-4**	**252**	**Sr.**	Dariss Lomax	6-2	235	Sr.
ILB	Tim Bowers	6-0	220	Sr.	Chris Doyle	6-0	210	Sr.
ILB	**Marcus Rogers**	**6-1**	**235**	**Jr.**	**Andrew LeClair**	**6-6**	**245**	**Jr.**
OLB	Algie Atkinson	6-5	235	Jr.	Victor Bullock	6-2	250	Sr.
CB	**Andrew Davison**	**5-11**	**195**	**Jr.**	*Carl Ivey	5-11	180	Fr.
SS	**Kareem High**	**5-10**	**200**	**Sr.**	Carl Shazor	6-3	195	So.
FS	**Carl Nesmith**	**6-3**	**215**	**Sr.**	Bilal Cook	5-11	190	Sr.
CB	Quincy Roe	5-9	185	Jr.	Matt Jordan	5-10	185	So.

Special Teams

K	**Joe Garcia**	**5-11**	**175**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Joey Pelfanio**	6-1	215	Sr.

More on Kansas at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/kansas/ AOL keyword: TSN

4 Colorado

NATIONAL RANK 42

Coach: Gary Barnett (7-5, 1 year; 50-61-2 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Shawn Watson (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Vince Okruch and Tom McMahon (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 13
Lettermen lost: 23
Lettermen returning: 43
Site: Boulder, Colo.
Stadium: Folsom Field (grass, 51,808)
Last league title won: 1991 (Big 8)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 28
1999 record: 7-5 (beat Boston College in Insight.com Bowl). Big 12 North: 5-3/3rd

1999 Results

Colorado State, L, 41-14
San Jose State, W, 63-35
Kansas, W, 51-17
at Washington, L, 31-24
Missouri, W, 46-39
at Texas Tech, L, 31-10
at Iowa State, W, 16-12
Oklahoma, W, 38-24
at Kansas State, L, 20-14
at Baylor, W, 37-0
Nebraska, L, 33-30
Boston College, W, 62-28

Schedule

S2—Colorado State*
S9—at USC
S16—Washington
S30—Kansas State
O7—at Texas A&M
O14—Texas
O21—at Kansas
O28—Oklahoma State
N4—at Missouri
N11—Iowa State
N24—at Nebraska
*at Denver, Colo.

Offensive philosophy: In hopes of keeping the multiple offense and taking it to a new level, Gary Barnett named quarterbacks coach Shawn Watson as coordinator to replace Tom Cable, who left for the head coaching job at Idaho. After the pass-happy scheme under Rick Neuheisel, Barnett has the Buffs running a two-back set with a stronger emphasis on running and shorter, intermediate passes.
Offensive stars: With new faces at quarterback and throughout the line, Barnett will lean heavily on junior TB Cortlen Johnson, who rushed for 835 yards last year and 201 in the Insight.com Bowl win over Boston College—as if to say he's ready for super frosh Marcus Houston. Johnson survived a sprained knee in spring ball and should be healthy for fall. Senior WR Javon Green led the team with 40 catches and started to click under the new offense with 100-yard-plus games against Oklahoma, Kansas State and Nebraska. Junior C Andre Gurode, who started all 12 games, will need to anchor a young line. TE Daniel Graham caught 22 balls for 315 yards and four touchdowns.
Offensive concerns: The offense finished with three 500-plus yard games, including a best-ever 504 yards against Nebraska. But the Buffs will be hard-pressed to continue that. There will be a new quarterback, either Zac Colvin, who had one start last season and helped CU to a comeback win over Iowa State, or Bobby Pesavento, a 6-5, 230-pound junior from Fort Scott (Kan.) C.C. who turned heads in the spring with his deep tosses and playmaking ability. It will be interesting, also, to see how soon Barnett breaks in Houston, a local star from Denver who is sure to be of high demand by media and fans. The Buffs must retool their line, but they have solid candidates in T Victor Rogers and G Justin Bates, who each started six games last year. New faces at quarterback and on the line, combined with a brutal schedule, mean CU figures to be more inconsistent on offense.
Defensive philosophy: CU runs an aggressive 4-3 with emphasis on speed and playmaking by the linebackers.
Defensive stars: The scheme is built around Jashon Sykes at the Hawk linebacker spot. Sykes figures to build on a breakthrough sophomore year in which he ranked second in the Big 12 in tackles (134) and led the nation in fumbles forced. Sykes will be flanked by veteran Ty Gregorak, who spent the spring recovering from chronic knee and shoulder injuries, and sophomore Drew Wahlroos, who has 10 starts at the drop linebacker spot. DE Brady McDonnell's 23 starts are the most on the team entering the season.
Defensive concerns: The secondary loses three starters, including Ben Kelly to the NFL draft. Michael Lewis, one of the hardest-hitting safeties in the league, has to pick up the leadership of Kelly and Rashidi Barnes.
Special teams: These must be overhauled, too. JC recruit Jeremy Flores, a second-team All-American at Scottsdale C.C. who had a 63½ yard field goal in high school in Willard, Mo., may win both kicking jobs. The biggest challenge will be replacing Kelly, the most dangerous return man in the league behind David Allen.
Head coach: It took several games for Barnett's get-tough attitude to sink in. Still, his emphasis on discipline and execution put new life into a program that was growing soft. The success the Buffs had in almost knocking off Nebraska and then blitzing Boston College should make his messages easier to hear.
Schedule: No wonder Neuheisel left for Washington. The Buffs have the toughest schedule in the country. Their first six games are Colorado State (Denver), at USC, Washington, Kansas State, at Texas A&M, then Texas. Not exactly conducive for a team with a lot of youth. But at least the team will know how good—or not-so-good—it is in a hurry. Anyone standing after those six games gets a purple heart—and a bowl bid.
Bottom line: Barnett is doing all the right things. But with so many new faces playing in tough places, Colorado probably is setting the table for a big 2001.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Big day: *Johnson was one of three players to rush for 200 yards in a bowl game last season. He averaged 13.4 yards per carry in the bowl.*

BIG 12

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Javon Green**	**6-2**	**195**	**Sr.**	Cedric Cormier	5-11	180	Jr.
T	**Victor Rogers**	**6-7**	**325**	**Jr.**	*Jordan Gehring	6-6	325	Fr.
G	**Justin Bates**	**6-4**	**295**	**So.**	Josh Foster	6-6	285	So.
C	**Andre Gurode**	**6-4**	**305**	**Jr.**	Marwan Hage	6-3	265	So.
G	Ryan Gray	6-3	305	So.	*Gabe Oderberg	6-4	255	Fr.
T	Tom Ashworth	6-6	265	Sr.	*Karl Allis	6-5	315	Fr.
TE	**Daniel Graham**	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**	Miles Koon	6-5	260	Jr.
WR	John Minardi	6-2	195	Jr.	Roman Hollowell	5-6	160	Jr.
QB	Bobby Pesavento	6-5	230	Jr.	Zac Colvin	6-4	215	So.
RB	**Cortlen Johnson**	**5-9**	**195**	**Jr.**	Marcus Houston	6-2	205	Fr.
FB	Davis Andrews	6-4	250	Jr.	Brandon Drumm	6-2	220	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Tyler Brayton	6-6	255	So.	Robert Haas	6-5	250	Jr.
T	**Justin Bannan**	**6-3**	**290**	**Jr.**	Sam Taulealea	6-0	300	So.
T	Sean Jarne	6-7	295	Sr.	*Pete Friedrich	6-3	280	Fr.
E	**Brady McDonnell**	**6-4**	**265**	**Sr.**	Anwawn Jones	6-5	255	Sr.
OLB	Andy Peeke	6-0	200	Jr.	**Ty Gregorak**	**6-3**	**240**	**Sr.**
MLB	**Jashon Sykes**	**6-3**	**230**	**Jr.**	Joey Johnson	6-2	210	So.
OLB	**Drew Wahlroos**	**6-3**	**225**	**So.**	Kory Mossoni	6-3	220	So.
CB	Nate Wright	6-0	180	Jr.	Donald Strickland	5-10	175	So.
SS	**Michael Lewis**	**6-2**	**205**	**Jr.**	Albus Brooks	6-0	190	Jr.
FS	Robbie Robinson	5-10	195	Jr.	*Medford Moorer	6-1	175	Fr.
CB	Terrence Wood	5-10	175	Jr.	*Phil Jackson	6-2	165	Fr.

Special Teams

K	Jeremy Flores	5-11	180	Jr.	**P**	Jeremy Flores	5-11	180	Jr.

More on Colorado at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/colorado/ AOL keyword: TSN

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 Missouri

NATIONAL RANK 59

Coach: Larry Smith (26-31-1, 6 years; 136-111-7 overall, 23 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bill Cubit and Andy Hill (1st seasons)
Defensive coordinator: Moe Ankney (7th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 5-2
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 45
Site: Columbia, Mo.
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 68,174)
Last league title won: 1969 (Big Eight)
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 85
1999 record: 4-7. Big 12 North: 1-7/T5th

1999 Results

UAB, W, 31-28
W. Michigan, W, 48-34
Nebraska, L, 40-10
at Memphis, W, 27-17
at Colorado, L, 46-39
Iowa State, L, 24-21
at Kansas, L, 21-0
Texas Tech, W, 34-7
at Oklahoma, L, 37-0
Texas A&M, L, 51-14
at Kansas State, L, 66-0

Schedule

S2—Western Illinois
S9—at Clemson
S16—Michigan State
S30—at Nebraska
O7—Oklahoma State
O14—Kansas
O21—at Texas
O28—at Iowa State
N4—Colorado
N11—at Baylor
N18—Kansas State

Offensive philosophy: The Tigers are coming off a 4-7 season that got extremely ugly at the end with shutout losses to Kansas, Oklahoma and Kansas State. The answer: trash the smash-mouth style and open things up. Larry Smith brought in three new faces to his offensive staff, including Bill Cubit, who comes from Western Michigan, to be co-offensive coordinator with receivers coach Andy Hill. The Tigers spent the spring using shotgun formations and running out of four- and five-receiver sets.
Offensive stars: Junior Jim Dougherty and sophomore Kirk Farmer pick up their duel at quarterback where they left off at midseason, when Farmer broke his leg against Iowa State. TE Dwayne Blakley, who made second-team All-Big 12 while catching 22 passes for 235 yards and six touchdowns, should love the new offense. The Tigers have a number of receivers who could become stars if the offense works out. They include John Dausman, who missed 1999 with a knee injury, and Travis Garvin, who runs a 4.39 40.
Offensive concerns: To make this offense work, you need someone with big-play abilities and the instincts to make the right play on the run. Do the Tigers have that? Farmer completed 46.2 percent of his passes with nine touchdowns before getting hurt; Doughterty completed 49.8 percent with just four touchdowns. The next star quarterback could be Darius Outlaw, who sat out last season as a partial qualifier. But Outlaw's progress has been slow and he didn't get many snaps in the spring. The running back no longer is the marquee man, but Zack Abron and Zain Gilmore (764 yards rushing in 1999) need to be somewhat of a threat. The line returns three starters, but how good it is depends on how well the Tigers can replace All-American C Rob Riti.
Defensive philosophy: Smith also is tinkering with his attacking defense, moving LB Danny McCamy to tackle to get more speed up front. Coordinator Moe Ankney also wants to move E Justin Smith around more and call defenses around where Smith lines up.
Defensive stars: Justin Smith is the most dominant defensive player in the Big 12 and should be a Butkus and Lombardi candidate. Smith is extremely mobile, sometimes too mobile; Ankney wants him to be more disciplined and not play as recklessly. CB Julian Jones, who had 92 tackles and a Big 12-leading six interceptions with a bad shoulder, should be even better.
Defensive concerns: Eight starters return from a group that gave up 154 points in its last three games. To be fair, they spent a lot of time on the field as the offense sputtered. MU needs a stronger pass rush from NT Pat Mingucci, who injured his knee last season, and G Cedric Harden, who had four sacks while replacing Mingucci. LB Jamonte Robinson needs to emerge as a playmaker and the corner positions must solidify. If Justin Smith can mature, things will fall into place.
Special teams: MU was so awful here that Smith had tight ends coach Corby Smith take over. Much of the problem was in the punting game, where Jared Gilpin (38.7 average) had to handle several bad snaps. Smith plans to limit snapper Ben Davidson's blocking duties and change the overall scheme. He also may have Garvin and Julian Jones return kicks.

PAUL NISELY / TSN

Coincidence? *The Tigers were 3-2 using a two-quarterback system before Farmer got hurt. They lost five times (three by shutout) afterward.*

Head coach: The popular Smith came under heavy fire for how last season ended and he responded by shaking up his staff and offensive style. Smith always has coached teams that were tough and ran first. It will be interesting to see if he really turns this offense loose.
Schedule: Not exactly conducive for a team finding its way in a new offense. The Tigers travel to Clemson, face Michigan State and then travel to Nebraska. All in September. After an October 21 trip to Texas, the schedule eases before concluding against Kansas State.
Bottom line: A 1-3 start is likely, at which point Mizzou must avoid repeating 1999's collapse. Much depends on Farmer, or Dougherty, stepping up. If either does, a 6-5 finish and bowl bid won't be entirely out of reach.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold * *Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	John Dausman	6-1	182	Sr.	*Brandon Barnes	6-4	210	Fr.
T	Joe Glauberman	6-3	272	Sr.	**Aaron Crittendon**	**6-5**	**325**	**Jr.**
G	*Rob Droege	6-6	288	Fr.	J.P. Hall	6-4	271	So.
C	*A.J. Ricker	6-5	287	Fr.	Chris Ryan	6-3	294	Jr.
G	**Mike Hayes**	**6-3**	**292**	**Jr.**	Adrian Cole	6-4	330	Jr.
T	**Justin Bland**	**6-6**	**346**	**Jr.**	Wes Wilson	6-4	302	So.
TE	**Dwayne Blakley**	**6-4**	**263**	**Jr.**	Brandon Ford	6-3	255	Jr.
WR	**Travis Garvin**	**6-1**	**180**	**So.**	Eric Spencer	5-10	170	Jr.
QB	Kirk Farmer	6-5	213	So.	**Jim Dougherty**	**6-4**	**192**	**Jr.**
RB	*Zack Abron	5-10	232	Fr.	Zain Gilmore	6-1	222	Jr.
FB	**Joe Chirumbolo**	**6-2**	**236**	**So.**	*Dan Davis	6-2	242	Fr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
G	**Cedric Harden**	**6-3**	**298**	**So.**	*Howard Brown	6-3	285	Fr.
NT	**Pat Mingucci**	**6-2**	**269**	**Sr.**	*Jemarcus Joshua	6-1	303	Fr.
T	Michael Gavins	6-8	298	Jr.	**Danny McCamy**	**6-3**	**261**	**Sr.**
E	**Justin Smith**	**6-5**	**265**	**Jr.**	Josh O'Neal	6-1	232	So.
OLB	Pat Duffy	6-1	225	Sr.	Daryl Whittington	6-6	246	Sr.
MLB	**Jamonte Robinson**	**6-2**	**203**	**Jr.**	David Monroe	6-0	230	Jr.
OLB	Sean Doyle	6-0	226	So.	Duke Revard	6-3	230	Jr.
CB	John McPherson	5-11	180	So.	Terrence Curry	5-11	180	So.
SS	Gary Anthony	6-0	195	So.	**Andre Roberson**	**5-10**	**169**	**Sr.**
FS	**Clarence Jones**	**6-1**	**195**	**Jr.**	*Brandon Williams	6-3	174	Fr.
CB	**Julian Jones**	**5-11**	**192**	**Sr.**	Larry Hollinquest	6-0	188	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Brad Hammerich**	**6-3**	**190**	**Jr.**	P	**Jared Giplin**	**5-10**	**180**	**Jr.**

6 Iowa State

NATIONAL RANK 79

Coach: Dan McCarney (13-42, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Loney (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: John Skladany (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 36
Site: Ames, Iowa
Stadium: Jack Trice (grass, 43,000)
Last league title won: 1912 (Big 8)
Last bowl appearance: 1978
1999 TSN rank: 73
1999 record: 4-7. Big 12 North: 1-7/T5th

1999 Results

Indiana State, W, 33-7
Iowa, W, 17-10
at UNLV, W, 24-0
Kansas State, L, 35-28
at Nebraska, L, 49-14
at Missouri, W, 24-21
Colorado, L, 16-12
Texas, L, 44-41
at Texas Tech, L, 28-16
Oklahoma, L, 31-10
at Kansas, L, 31-28

Schedule

A31—Ohio
S9—UNLV
S16—at Iowa
S30—at Baylor
O7—Nebraska
O14—at Oklahoma State
O21—Texas A&M
O28—Missouri
N4—at Kansas State
N11—at Colorado
N18—Kansas

Offensive philosophy: Last year Iowa State ran out of one-back sets, often with a tight end and no fullback, and had QB Sage Rosenfels rolling out and running options. New coordinator Steve Loney, who returns after a stint at Minnesota, expects to keep the basic scheme but add some wrinkles.

Offensive stars: Rosenfels was a surprise hit in his first year as a starter, hitting 127-of-235 passes for 1,781 yards and 10 touchdowns, and his mobility and improvisation were a huge spark. Rosenfels will have to build on that without RB Darren Davis to lean on. His prime targets will be senior Chris Anthony, who has 79 receptions the last two seasons, and senior flanker J.J. Moses, a 5-6, 170-pound return specialist who had just 18 catches last year but averaged 16.4 yards per catch. Senior C Ben Bruns, a three-year starter, may be the line's lone returnee.

Offensive concerns: Finding a replacement for Davis, who rushed for over 1,000 yards in each of the last three seasons. Junior Ennis Haywood, more of a slashing, north-south runner, is expected to emerge as the new workhorse after rushing 55 times for 278 yards as Davis' backup last season. Freshman Michael Wagner, who redshirted after being injured in the 1999 opener, also will get plenty of reps. Because of the uncertain status of returning starters Ben Beaudet and Marcel Howard, who both had concussion problems last fall and sat out in the spring, the Cyclones might have to fill four holes in the line. With Rosenfels and Anthony the only returning playmakers from last season, Loney's first year back will not be dull.

Defensive philosophy: Iowa State plays an attacking 4-3 style, bolstered this year by what observers are calling the school's best defensive line since the mid-80's.

Defensive stars: It starts with Reggie Hayward, Iowa State's active All-Big 12 defensive end, who was a one-man wrecking crew (68 tackles, four sacks and four tackles for loss) last season. Hayward's line mates include senior T James Reed, a two-time third-team all-league choice. The Cyclones might even have a third lineman in line for league honors if NG Ryan Harklau picks up where he left off before breaking his foot in the second game of last season and missing three games. Iowa State is deep at cornerback with 1998 starters Jamarcus Powers and Breon Ansley back after missing most of last season with injuries. They'll battle their able replacements, Atif Austin and Ryan Sloth. One newcomer to watch is Stevie Johnson, who played forward for the Big 12 basketball champion Cyclones and is getting a look at strong safety.

Defensive concerns: OLB Matt Word and MLB Chris Whitaker were thrown into the fire as true freshmen last year and need to continue to develop. ISU has experience, depth and speed throughout the defense and has moved from 108th in total defense in 1996 to 45th last year. But with so many questions on offense, the defense may have to carry the load this season.

Special teams: Junior K Mike McKnight, who was seven-of-13 last season, and senior P Carl Gomez, who has a 40.3 career average, both return. J.J. Moses, who averaged 22.7 yards per kick return, became one of the Big 12's most dangerous return men last season.

IOWA STATE

Best against the best: *Hayward's 68-tackle season included 11-tackle games against conference powers Nebraska and Kansas State.*

Head coach: Dan McCarney enters his sixth season at Iowa State and he may be on the clock. McCarney had his best season, 4-7, in 1999 and who knows how well it could have gone if the Cyclones could have hung on to beat Kansas State in Week 4? McCarney's critics say he needs to strengthen his staff and turn more over to them. He may have helped his cause by hiring Loney and new associate head coach Bill Elliott.

Bottom line: McCarney's program has shown vast improvement over the last five years and the addition of Elliott, a former Iowa assistant, is huge for in-state credibility. Now the Cyclones need to learn how to win. And fast. McCarney is going to need a winning record soon, very soon, or he won't be around to reap what he has sowed.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Chris Anthony**	**6-3**	**204**	**Sr.**	*Jack Whitver	5-10	180	Fr.
T	Cory Hannen	6-5	300	Jr.	T.J. Woods	6-5	303	Jr.
G	Jared Bucksa	6-3	288	Jr.	Scott Rickard	6-3	274	Sr.
C	**Ben Bruns**	**6-3**	**307**	**Sr.**	Adam Sansale	6-2	286	Jr.
G	Zach Butler	6-4	285	So.	Scott Davis	6-4	300	Jr.
T	*Bob Montgomery	6-3	311	Fr.	George Cunningham	6-6	274	Jr.
TE	Mike Banks	6-4	254	Jr.	Andy Stensrud	6-7	270	Sr.
WR	**J.J. Moses**	**5-6**	**170**	**Sr.**	*Lane Danielson	6-0	197	Fr.
QB	**Sage Rosenfels**	**6-4**	**221**	**Sr.**	*Gerrin Scott	6-0	209	Fr.
RB	Ennis Haywood	5-11	206	Jr.	*Michael Wagner	5-7	182	Fr.
FB	Robert Lewis	5-9	233	Sr.	*Frank Garcia	5-9	225	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Reggie Hayward**	**6-5**	**245**	**Sr.**	*Kevin Costello	6-3	235	Fr.
T	**James Reed**	**6-0**	**285**	**Sr.**	*Jordan Carstens	6-5	268	Fr.
NG	**Ryan Harklau**	**6-4**	**280**	**Sr.**	**Nigel Tharpe**	**6-3**	**288**	**Sr.**
E	Kevin DeRonde	6-5	255	Jr.	*Casey Shelton	6-6	269	Fr.
OLB	Derrick Walker	6-2	220	Sr.	**Eric Weiford**	**5-11**	**215**	**Sr.**
MLB	Chris Whitaker	5-11	228	So.	Tyrone Tucker	6-2	236	Jr.
OLB	Ab Turner	6-0	210	Sr.	Matt Word	5-11	228	So.
CB	**Atif Austin**	**5-8**	**180**	**So.**	*Bryan Ollie	5-8	178	Fr.
SS	Doug Densmore	5-10	195	Sr.	*Ron Veal	6-1	191	Fr.
FS	*Marc Timmons	5-9	168	Fr.	Sam Holden	6-3	197	So.
CB	**Ryan Sloth**	**5-8**	**184**	**Sr.**	*Johnny Smith	5-10	170	Fr.

Special Teams

K	**Mike McKnight**	**6-2**	**209**	**Jr.**	**P**	**Carl Gomez**	**6-2**	**198**	**Sr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Texas

NATIONAL RANK 7

Coach: Mack Brown (18-8, 2 years; 104-82-1 overall, 16 years)
Offensive coordinator: Greg Davis (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Carl Reese (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: I-formation
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 47
Site: Austin, Texas
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 80,082)
Last league title won: 1996
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 19
1999 record: 9-5 (lost to Arkansas in Cotton Bowl)
Big 12 South: 6-2/1st

1999 Results

NC State, L, 23-20
Stanford, W, 69-17
at Rutgers, W, 38-21
Rice, W, 18-13
at Baylor, W, 62-0
Kansas State, L, 35-17
Oklahoma, W, 38-28
Nebraska, W, 24-20
at Iowa State, W, 44-41
at Oklahoma St., W, 34-21
Texas Tech, W, 58-7
at Texas A&M, L, 20-16
Nebraska, L, 22-6
Arkansas, L, 27-6

Schedule

S9—Louisiana-Lafayette
S16—at Stanford
S23—Houston
S30—Oklahoma State
O7—Oklahoma*
O14—at Colorado
O21—Missouri
O28—Baylor
N4—at Texas Tech
N11—at Kansas
N24—Texas A&M
*at Dallas

Offensive philosophy: After losing its final three games last season, Texas hopes to get more physical. The Longhorns will continue to have one of the nation's most balanced attacks, with diversified passing and running games, but could rotate quarterbacks and running backs.

Offensive stars: A knee injury that required surgery sidelined QB Major Applewhite in the spring and opened the door for sophomore Chris Simms, who is taller and more mobile and has a stronger arm than the junior he's trying to replace. Both have star power and could start for virtually any other team in the league. Hodges Mitchell became UT's first running back to rush for 1,000 yards and collect more than 300 yards receiving in a season. The short, compact Mitchell was the surprise sensation of 1999 but wore down and could give up carries to bigger backs such as redshirt freshman Ivan Williams and sophomore Kenny Hayter. G Derrick Dockery is emerging as a standout, and TE Bo Scaife could be the best-kept secret in the Big 12.

Offensive concerns: The offense was decimated in the final three games by allowing 20 sacks, and the line could struggle again even though most of the starters have lost up to 20 pounds apiece in an attempt to get quicker. LT Leonard Davis has yet to live up to immense expectations, and right tackle could be a problem, with Cory Quye and Mike Williams possibly rotating. They would be responsible for protecting the lefthanded Simms' backside if he starts. C Matt Anderson is steady. Until highly touted freshmen B.J. Johnson, Roy Williams and Sloan Thomas catch on, Texas may be without a go-to receiver. Neither converted TE Chad Stevens nor converted LB Matt Trissel has nailed down the fullback spot.

Defensive philosophy: This unit should be very effective against the run and vastly improved against the pass, with more blitzing from linebackers, more depth in the secondary and speedier, more physical corners.

Defensive stars: There is no better set of interior linemen in the nation than Casey Hampton and Shaun Rogers. Hampton is more consistent than Rogers, but Rogers is more explosive and spectacular. He just needs more stamina to play longer. Quentin Jammer, a strong, confident junior who redshirted in '99, shifts from safety to corner. He and sophomore Roderick Babers could be an outstanding pair of cornerbacks.

Defensive concerns: With the graduation of both ends, Texas will be hard-pressed to rush the passer without help from its linebackers. LE Cory Redding, who made his first start in the Cotton Bowl after the suspension of Aaron Humphrey, eventually will be a star. At right end, Jermain Anderson, who played little last season because of a wrist injury, former RB Maurice Gordon and converted MLB Adam McConathy are potential replacements. De'Andre Lewis is good, but he's miscast as a middle linebacker, and the strong side is up for grabs.

Special teams: P Ryan Long must improve dramatically upon his erratic 1999 season to beat out freshman Justin Smith. K Kris Stockton could give up the kickoff job to rookie Matt McFadden. Stockton will need to work on his consistency after missing 10-of-30 field-goal tries. Ivan Williams will run over folks as the new kick returner, and former starting CB Ahmad Brooks could assume the punt-return duties.

ROBERT SCALE / TSN

Middle man: *Lewis, a former running back with 25 career starts at linebacker, is a big reason for Texas' recent defensive improvement.*

Head coach: Mack Brown's nine wins in each of the last two years don't totally negate the frustration of eight combined defeats, especially since last season ended with losses to Texas A&M, Nebraska and Arkansas.

Schedule: After Mack cancelled the season opener in Hawaii, the Longhorns have a favorable schedule that includes games at Stanford, Colorado, Texas Tech and Kansas. They don't play Nebraska or Kansas State.

Bottom line: The soft schedule and 18 returning starters could lead to expectations of a national championship bid. At worst, the Longhorns should be looking at nine or 10 victories and a major bowl berth.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold * *Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	*Artie Ellis	6-4	205	Fr.	Brandon Healey	6-1	200	Sr.
T	**Leonard Davis**	**6-6**	**367**	**Sr.**	Robbie Doane	6-6	285	So.
G	Derrick Dockery	6-6	335	So.	*Tillman Holloway	6-3	297	Fr.
C	**Matt Anderson**	**6-4**	**310**	**Jr.**	Beau Baker	6-5	265	So.
G	**Antwan Kirk-Hughes**	**6-3**	**320**	**Jr.**	Corey Bradford	6-1	296	Jr.
T	Mike Williams	6-6	339	Jr.	**Cory Quye**	**6-6**	**325**	**Sr.**
TE	Bo Scaife	6-3	240	So.	**Mike Jones**	**6-4**	**260**	**Jr.**
WR	Montrell Flowers	5-9	182	Jr.	Courtnee Garcia	5-8	160	So.
QB	Chris Simms	6-5	210	So.	**Major Applewhite**	**6-1**	**205**	**Jr.**
RB	**Hodges Mitchell**	**5-7**	**190**	**Sr.**	Victor Ike	5-11	195	So.
FB	Matt Trissel	6-0	227	So.	Chad Stevens	6-4	245	So.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Cory Redding	6-5	245	So.	Adam McConathy	6-4	238	So.
T	**Casey Hampton**	**6-1**	**305**	**Sr.**	Stevie Lee	6-4	300	Fr.
T	**Shaun Rogers**	**6-4**	**315**	**Sr.**	*Marcus Tubbs	6-4	265	Fr.
E	Jermain Anderson	6-3	225	Jr.	Maurice Gordon	6-1	230	Jr.
OLB	**Tyrone Jones**	**6-4**	**230**	**Jr.**	Marcus Wilkins	6-2	225	Jr.
MLB	**De'Andre Lewis**	**6-1**	**238**	**Jr.**	*Reed Boyd	6-3	220	Fr.
OLB	**Everick Rawls**	**6-1**	**230**	**Jr.**	O.J. McClintock	6-2	216	So.
CB	**Ahmad Brooks**	**5-8**	**182**	**Jr.**	Quentin Jammer	6-1	196	Jr.
SS	**Lee Jackson**	**6-3**	**205**	**Jr.**	Joe Walker	6-0	185	Sr.
FS	**Greg Brown**	**6-2**	**200**	**Sr.**	*Dakarai Pearson	5-10	180	Fr.
CB	**Ervis Hill**	**5-9**	**182**	**Jr.**	Roderick Babers	5-10	175	So.

Special Teams

K	**Kris Stockton**	**5-9**	**195**	**Sr.**	Matt McFadden	5-11	185	Fr.	P	**Ryan Long**	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**	Justin Smith	6-5	185	Fr.

2 Oklahoma

NATIONAL RANK 17

Coach: Bob Stoops (7-5, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: Mark Mangino (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Stoops and Brent Venables(2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 11
Lettermen returning: 45
Site: Norman, Okla.
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 72,765)
Last league title won: 1987 (Big Eight)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 35
1999 record: 7-5 (lost to Mississippi in Independence Bowl).
Big 12 South: 5-3, T2nd

1999 Results

Indiana State, W, 49-0
Baylor, W, 41-10
at Louisville, W, 42-21
at Notre Dame, L, 34-30
Texas, L, 38-28
Texas A&M, W, 51-6
at Colorado, L, 38-24
Missouri, W, 37-0
at Iowa State, W, 31-10
at Texas Tech, L, 38-28
Oklahoma State, W, 44-7
Mississippi, L, 27-25

Schedule

S2—UTEP
S9—Arkansas State
S23—Rice
S30—Kansas
O7—Texas*
O14—at Kansas State
O28—Nebraska
N4—at Baylor
N11—at Texas A&M
N18—Texas Tech
N25—at Oklahoma State
*at Dallas

Offensive philosophy: Wide open were the Sooners last year in Bob Stoops' first year as head coach, and wide open they will remain, even with the loss of offensive coordinator Mike Leach to Texas Tech. Oklahoma will pay more attention to its running game to take some pressure off its vaunted passing attack, especially when it gets a big lead, as it often did last year. The Sooners need to get away from excessive reliance on a finesse offense.

Offensive stars: With almost 3,400 yards passing and 30 touchdowns, Josh Heupel ranks as one of the Big 12's top quarterbacks and should profit greatly from a year in the league and better depth from backups Jason White and Nate Hybl, a Troy Aikman look-alike in uniform. If Heupel gets better protection and stays poised in the pocket, he should have another spectacular year. Wide receiver Antwone Savage is poised for a breakout season. Versatile Bubba Burcham, the team's most experienced lineman, will switch from guard to center. Oklahoma is deep at tight end. Although none is a legitimate star yet, don't be surprised if Trent Smith becomes one.

Offensive concerns: Oklahoma began the spring with just seven scholarship linemen from a unit that allowed the league's fewest sacks and had the second-fewest penalties. Right guard is up for grabs. The running game has not been as productive as it needs to be, but Quenton Griffin showed enough moxie to take off his redshirt with only four games left last season. The Sooners are not without talent at wide receiver, but the loss of a pair of seniors who combined for 94 catches could slow the passing attack until Savage, Curtis Fagan and Damien Mackey prove ready. Stoops hopes Mackey, who will play in the slot, can replace Brandon Daniels and be a threat on reverses.

Defensive philosophy: The team must solve its road woes, which could be attributed to youth and tendencies to gamble too much. The defense allowed 4.2 points and 229 yards at home but 30 points and 441 yards each road outing, which proved costly in losses to Notre Dame, Texas and Colorado. Depth and speed are better, and the team would love to rotate ends.

Defensive stars: No team has a better, more aggressive linebacking duo than Rocky Calmus and Torrance Marshall, who combined last season for 211 tackles, 31 of them behind the line of scrimmage. They're the best tandem since Brian Bosworth, Dante Jones and Paul Migliazzo played in the mid-'80s. Roy Williams is as smart and heady a strong safety as there is.

Defensive concerns: Graduation stripped the secondary of three starters, including both corners, and will put a lot of pressure on Williams to make the proper calls on a defense that allowed 17 touchdown passes, eight from 32 yards or longer. A great pass rusher needs to emerge from returnees Corey Callens and Eric Thunander and a pair of junior college transfers who were on hand for spring ball.

Special teams: As erratic as special teams were a year ago—last year, Daniels led the league in kickoff returns, kicker Tim Duncan faltered with his form late and punter Jeff Ferguson had horrible first punts to open games—Oklahoma could be just as up and down this fall. J.T. Thatcher will return punts and any of the wideouts could run back kickoffs.

OKLAHOMA

Call Ripley's: *Oklahoma had six 300-yard passing games in its 104-year football history before 1999. Last season, Heupel had seven.*

Head coach: Stoops quietly is replenishing the cupboard. After winning seven games and very nearly nine and taking the Sooners to their first bowl game since 1994, Stoops has the team on the rise. Fans are so pumped that season-ticket sales jumped 14,000 to 56,000 last year and could climb another 10,000.

Schedule: A quick start is inevitable with a Kleenex-stiff schedule that opens with Texas-El Paso, Arkansas State, Rice and Kansas. The tough part begins with Texas and Kansas State away from Norman and a home date with Nebraska.

Bottom line: Book another bowl appearance. The team can vie for the South title if it can balance its offense.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Andre Woolfolk	6-0	184	So.	**Curtis Fagan**	**6-0**	**176**	**So.**
T	**Frank Romero**	**6-3**	**267**	**So.**	Jarrod Barclay	6-3	266	So.
G	Scott Kempenich	6-5	315	Sr.	Mike Skinner	6-4	307	So.
C	**Bubba Burcham**	**6-2**	**271**	**Sr.**	Josh Smith	6-1	272	So.
G	Al Baysinger	6-3	322	Sr.	Bubba Burcham	6-2	271	Sr.
T	Howard Duncan	6-4	300	Jr.	Jarrod Barclay	6-3	266	So.
TE	**Trent Smith**	**6-5**	**222**	**So.**	Chris Hammons	6-3	240	Sr.
WR	Antwone Savage	6-1	190	So.	*Jarvis Smith	5-8	164	Fr.
QB	**Josh Heupel**	**6-2**	**210**	**Sr.**	Patrick Fletcher	5-10	162	Sr.
RB	**Seth Littrell**	**5-10**	**215**	**Sr.**	Buster Kuhn	5-8	192	Sr.
FB	**Quenton Griffin**	**5-6**	**180**	**So.**	Dwight McKissic	5-10	203	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Corey Heinecke**	**6-1**	**218**	**Jr.**	Eric Thunander	6-2	220	So.
T	**Ryan Fisher**	**6-2**	**281**	**Sr.**	*Kory Klein	6-1	255	Fr.
T	**Bary Holleyman**	**6-4**	**275**	**Jr.**	Ramon Richardson	6-1	293	Sr.
E	**Corey Callens**	**6-2**	**258**	**Sr.**	Marcus Chretian	6-4	240	Jr.
OLB	**Roger Steffen**	**6-1**	**213**	**Sr.**	Brandon Moore	6-1	220	Sr.
MLB	**Torrance Marshall**	**6-2**	**242**	**Sr.**	Tanner Reynolds	6-1	244	So.
OLB	**Rocky Calmus**	**6-3**	**231**	**Jr.**	*Brian Jimerson	6-3	210	Fr.
CB	Michael Thompson	6-1	188	So.	Marvin Shoulders	5-8	160	Sr.
SS	**Roy Williams**	**6-0**	**220**	**So.**	Matt Mayhew	5-11	187	Jr.
FS	J.T. Thatcher	5-11	213	Sr.	*Brandon Everage	5-11	171	Fr.
CB	*Derrick Strait	5-10	186	Fr.	Brent Jackson	5-9	179	So.

Special Teams

K	**Tim Duncan**	6-1	195	Jr.	P	**Jeff Ferguson**	5-9	185	Jr.

More on Oklahoma at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/oklahoma/ AOL keyword: TSN

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

3 Texas A&M

NATIONAL RANK 21

Coach: R.C. Slocum (102-32-2, 11 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Kragthorpe (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Hankwitz (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple pro sets
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 45
Site: College Station, Texas
Stadium: Kyle Field (grass, 80,322)
Last league title won: 1998
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 20
1999 record: 8-4 (lost to Penn State in Alamo Bowl). Big 12 South: 5-3/T2nd

1999 Results

at La. Tech, W, 37-17
Tulsa, W, 62-13
Southern Miss, W, 23-6
at Texas Tech, L, 21-19
Baylor, W, 45-13
Kansas, W, 34-17
at Oklahoma, L, 51-6
Oklahoma State, W, 21-3
at Nebraska, L, 37-0
at Missouri, W, 51-14
Texas, W, 20-16
Penn State, L, 24-0

Schedule

S2—at Notre Dame
S9—Wyoming
S16—UTEP
S30—Texas Tech
O7—Colorado
O14—at Baylor
O21—at Iowa State
O28—Kansas State
N4—at Oklahoma State
N11—Oklahoma
N24—at Texas

Offensive philosophy: In 1999, Texas A&M not only struggled to put together a passing attack but also misplaced its once-vaunted running game. R.C. Slocum hopes to change that with the addition of former Iowa State offensive coordinator Pete Hoener and former San Francisco 49ers assistant Larry Kirksey. A&M would like to restore its powerful ground attack and run more misdirection plays while incorporating a passing game with a lot of quick passes and three-step drops.
Offensive stars: The biggest might be C Seth McKinney, which isn't good news. McKinney (6-3, 290) should be the cornerstone of the line and ranks among the best centers in the Big 12, but few titles are predicated on a star lineman as its marquee offensive player. The tough, elusive Joe Weber could emerge as one of the league's top running backs, and redshirt freshman speedster Richard Whitaker figures to be a surprise attraction after an impressive spring. WR Chris Taylor offers big-play capability.
Offensive concerns: A&M has a wealth of candidates at quarterback, but none is rich in experience or leadership. Most project Colby Freeman as the likely starter because he's the most mobile and athletic, but Mark Farris, a 25-year-old former minor league baseball hand, has the maturity and Vance Smith the arm. The team is in such need of a threat at tight end that defensive line backup Lonnie Madison has shifted to the position, where he once was recruited by Boston College. The loss of three wideouts will cramp A&M's style early unless Bethel Johnson starts meeting expectations and either Mickey Jones or Dwain Goynes (4.28 speed) comes through. The line didn't have a 100-yard rusher until the last two league wins of '99.
Defensive philosophy: Again it's built around fast, athletic linebackers who can drop back into coverage and pursue the passer. With the front seven returning, including probably the fastest defensive line in school history with Ron Edwards, Ron Flemons and Rocky Bernard, the Aggies should be solid against the run and will make quarterbacks' lives miserable.
Defensive stars: Senior OLBs Roylin Bradley and Jason Glenn could be the best pair in the league. Bradley has 20 career sacks, and the fast, aggressive Glenn, if he can stay healthy, won't be known as Aaron Glenn's little brother much longer. True sophomore E Ty Warren will have a breakout year and could break a few quarterbacks in half. FS Michael Jameson returned three of his five interceptions for touchdowns last season, can block kicks and should be an excellent example in an otherwise depleted secondary.
Defensive concerns: Three defensive backs must be replaced, and part-time starter Jay Brooks and Sammy Davis are the keys to a good secondary. Big hitter Terrence Kiel could figure in, but there is precious little depth and next to zero experience.
Special teams: Ouch. All-America Shane Lechler and his length-of-the-field punts are gone. That could leave A&M on thin ice unless incoming freshman Cody Scates comes through. Shane's brother, Derek, and Timm Gergeni have yet to distinguish themselves. The kicking job is between Terence Kitchens, whose low trajectory cost him his job last season, and Russell Bynum, who hit 16-of-20 field goals two seasons ago.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

We're fine: *Linebacker Cornelius Anthony and the rest of the A&M defense usually have the opposing offense asking for help.*

Head coach: Slocum's seat might not be hot, but it is getting warmer by the minute. Even though his .757 career winning percentage is solid, fans are vocal about his team's fades and lack of bowl success.
Schedule: Opening in South Bend isn't the best of all worlds, especially when Notre Dame is coached by former Aggie defensive coordinator Bob Davie. But the Aggies do have home dates with Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas State and Texas Tech, which bodes well.
Bottom line: If the Aggies can muster any type of passing game to go with what should be an improved running game, they *might* have a chance to win in Austin and force their way into the Big 12 title game.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Bethel Johnson	5-11	188	Jr.	Mickey Jones	5-9	180	Jr.
T	**Michael Mahan**	**6-6**	**292**	**So.**	*Britt Lively	6-5	291	Fr.
G	Taylor Whitley	6-4	305	So.	Billy Yates	6-1	280	So.
C	**Seth McKinney**	**6-3**	**290**	**Jr.**	Toby McCarthy	6-2	274	Sr.
G	**Chris Valletta**	**6-3**	**287**	**Sr.**	*Andre Brooks	6-4	311	Fr.
T	Tango McCauley	6-3	294	Jr.	*Alan Reuber	6-6	278	Fr.
TE	**RoDerrick Broughton**	**6-1**	**247**	**Sr.**	Lonnie Madison	6-3	259	Jr.
WR	Chris Taylor	5-11	184	Sr.	Dwain Goynes	5-10	180	So.
QB	Mark Farris	6-2	212	So.	*Colby Freeman	6-2	213	Fr.
RB	*Richard Whitaker	5-10	192	Fr.	Joe Weber	6-0	222	So.
FB	**Ja'Mar Toombs**	**6-0**	**265**	**Jr.**	Stacy Jones	5-11	220	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Rocky Bernard**	**6-3**	**283**	**Sr.**	Evan Perroni	6-5	247	Jr.
T	**Ron Edwards**	**6-3**	**272**	**Sr.**	Stephen Young	6-0	273	Sr.
E	**Ronald Flemons**	**6-5**	**247**	**Sr.**	Ty Warren	6-4	286	So.
OLB	**Roylin Bradley**	**6-1**	**230**	**Sr.**	Jarrod Penright	6-3	232	So.
ILB	**Cornelius Anthony**	**6-0**	**234**	**Sr.**	Harold Robertson	6-2	223	Jr.
ILB	**Brian Gamble**	**6-2**	**227**	**So.**	*Jared Morris	6-3	226	Fr.
OLB	**Jason Glenn**	**6-1**	**235**	**Sr.**	Christian Rodriguez	6-2	237	Jr.
CB	Jay Brooks	5-9	182	Jr.	*Sean Weston	5-9	163	Fr.
SS	Terrence Kiel	5-11	192	So.	*Everett Smith	6-2	198	Fr.
FS	**Michael Jameson**	**5-11**	**179**	**Sr.**	*Everett Smith	6-2	198	Fr.
CB	Sammy Davis	6-0	169	So.	*Sean Weston	5-9	163	Fr.

Special Teams

K	Terence Kitchens	5-9	165	Sr.	P	*Timm Gergeni	5-9	159	Fr.

4 Oklahoma State

NATIONAL RANK 46

Coach: Bob Simmons (27-30, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Del Miller (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Cassity (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 30
Site: Stillwater, Okla.
Stadium: Lewis Field (turf, 48,000)
Last league title won: 1976 (tie, Big 8)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 62
1999 record: 5-6. Big 12 South: 3-5/5th

1999 Results

La.-Lafayette, W, 24-7
Tulsa, W, 46-9
at Mississippi St., L, 29-11
at Nebraska, L, 38-14
Texas Tech, W, 41-21
Kansas State, L, 44-21
at Texas A&M, L, 21-3
Texas, L, 34-21
Kansas, W, 45-13
at Baylor, W, 34-14
at Oklahoma, L, 44-7

Schedule

S9—at Tulsa
S16—Southwest Texas St.
S23—Southern Miss
S30—at Texas
O7—at Missouri
O14—Iowa State
O28—at Colorado
N4—at Texas A&M
N11—at Texas Tech
N18—Baylor
N25—Oklahoma

Offensive philosophy: The replacement of coordinator Ron Calcagni with Del Miller should result in a balanced offense with more one-back sets. Miller, a onetime head coach at Southwest Missouri State, was the first assistant coach hired at Kansas State by Bill Snyder in 1989 and is a Snyder clone.
Offensive stars: TE Marcellus Rivers could be the lone star, and even this big-play senior has been beset by injuries, suspensions and ineffective play. TB Jamaal Fobbs has been a superior back but has shared time in the backfield and needs to be set loose. He has the speed to go the distance every time, but he carried the ball more than 10 times in just two games all season. Fobbs is one of the Big 12's top kick returners and occasionally will line up in the slot with Reggie White or freshman Tatum Bell stepping in. RG Bryan Phillips is a superior blocker.
Offensive concerns: Where do you start? QB Tony Lindsay has shown he can be brilliant, but he missed the first five weeks of last season with a knee injury and never has recaptured the magic of his freshman year. The line was below average, failing to produce a single 100-yard game from a running back, and now is coached by former Ohio State coordinator Mike Jacobs, who once coached Orlando Pace. Wide receiver is wide open and will remain that way until JC transfer Lawson Giddings, Paul Jones (who tore up an ankle last fall) or exceptionally fast Willie Young proves himself. Depth at quarterback could be a problem with Ben Bowling missing time this spring with a broken hand and B.J. Tiger no longer on the team, but 6-4, 205-pound Aso Pogi is highly regarded.
Defensive philosophy: Attack, attack, attack. That mantra will remain even though coordinator Rob Ryan headed to the Baltimore Ravens. Now under the direction of former secondary coach Mike Cassity, OSU will continue to be aggressive and utilize the 46 defense.
Defensive stars: LB Dwayne Levels had 44 tackles in a backup role and will have to lead an inexperienced crew. FS Chris Massey, who blocked a pair of kicks, could excel on either side of the ball. CB Alvin Porter can break on the ball and has good hands, witness three interceptions and 12 passes broken up. DEs Zac Warner and Juqua Thomas have solid potential.
Defensive concerns: With five linebackers gone, including all three starters, LBs Terrence Robinson and Jake Riffe will have to hold off incoming JC transfers Ron Able and Michael Cooper. The secondary is a question mark unless Marcus Jones, who had one start, can emerge as a top-flight cornerback opposite Porter. The Cowboys need more muscle in the interior.

Special teams: Russ Schwettmann, who has been handling kickoffs, will take over the rest of the kicking duties even though he missed the only field-goal attempt he has tried as a collegian. Scott Elder is the incumbent at punter but was woefully inconsistent. The Cowboys need to find a punt returner to replace Terance Richardson or hope Gabe Lindsay can handle it. Fobbs is an excellent kick returner.
Head coach: The pressure is on. With back-to-back 5-6 seasons, Bob Simmons needs to produce in 2000 even though he signed a contract extension the day before last year's season opener. The sometimes-abrasive Simmons has tried to mend fences with the media, but only a stronger product on the field will bring the sixth-year head coach a seventh.
Schedule: Oklahoma State could establish confidence early against the likes of Tulsa and Southwest Texas State. Winnable games with Southern Mississippi, Missouri and Iowa State sandwich a visit to Texas. But road trips to Colorado, Texas A&M and Texas Tech could put a serious dent in the final record.
Bottom line: The jury is out on the mental toughness of a team that led Kansas State 21-0 in the first half but also went belly up in a 44-7 loss to Oklahoma. Lindsay's health and the development of some wide receivers are essential.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Needs a comeback: *Lindsay's five touchdown passes and 21 sacks last year were hardly the numbers of an elusive, big-play quarterback.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Willie Young	6-3	200	So.	T.D. Bryant	5-11	180	So.
T	**Kyle Eaton**	**6-7**	**280**	**So.**	Jon Hayhurst	6-4	270	So.
G	**Jeff Machado**	**6-3**	**275**	**Jr.**	Jason Rannebarger	6-6	315	Jr.
C	Jon Vandrell	6-2	280	Sr.	D.J. Grissom	6-4	325	Jr.
G	Bryan Phillips	6-5	285	Jr.	Jason Johnson	6-3	275	Jr.
T	**Josh Lind**	**6-6**	**280**	**Sr.**	Lawrence Chamberlain	6-4	340	Sr.
TE	**Bryan Blackwood**	**6-5**	**250**	**Sr.**	Marcellus Rivers	6-4	225	Sr.
WR	Gabe Lindsay	5-9	170	Sr.	Paul Jones	6-3	195	Sr.
QB	**Tony Lindsay**	**6-2**	**190**	**Sr.**	Aso Pogi	6-4	205	So.
TB	Jamaal Fobbs	5-10	180	Sr.	Reggie White	6-2	195	Jr.
FB	Tim Burrough	6-0	225	So.	Mike Denard	6-1	195	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Juqua Thomas**	**6-4**	**235**	**Sr.**	Sean Barry	6-4	235	Sr.
T	Chris Tyler	6-2	275	Jr.	LaWaylon Brown	6-5	250	So.
T	**Zac Akin**	**6-1**	**280**	**Sr.**	Jason Russell	6-6	260	So.
E	**Kevin Williams**	**6-5**	**235**	**So.**	**Zac Warner**	**6-4**	**270**	**Sr.**
OLB	Terrence Robinson	6-1	220	So.	Ron Able	6-2	235	Jr.
MLB	Dwayne Levels	6-3	220	Jr.	Jake Riffe	6-2	225	Jr.
OLB	Chris Carter	6-3	215	Sr.	Greg Richmond	6-3	225	So.
CB	Marcus Jones	5-9	175	Jr.	Ricklan Holmes	6-1	190	So.
SS	Robbie Gillem	6-1	200	Jr.	Elbert Craig	6-2	195	So.
FS	Chris Massey	6-0	185	So.	Roger Bombach	6-0	195	Jr.
CB	**Alvin Porter**	**6-0**	**180**	**Sr.**	Michael Cooper	5-10	180	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Russ Schwettmann**	**6-3**	**230**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Scott Elder**	**6-3**	**195**	**Jr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 Texas Tech

NATIONAL RANK 65

Coach: Mike Leach (1st season)
Offensive coordinator: Mike Leach 1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Greg McMackin (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 50
Site: Lubbock, Texas
Stadium: Jones (turf, 50,500)
Last league title won: 1994 (Southwest, tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 65
1999 record: 6-5. Big 12 South: 5-3/2nd

1999 Results

at Arizona State, L, 31-13
at La.-Lafayette, W, 38-17
North Texas, L, 21-14
Texas A&M, W, 21-19
at Oklahoma St., 41-L, 21
Colorado, W, 31-10
at Baylor, W, 35-7
at Missouri, L, 34-7
Iowa State, W, 28-16
at Texas, L, 58-7
Oklahoma, W, 38-28

Schedule

S2—Utah State
S9—North Texas
S16—Louisiana-Lafayette
S30—at Texas A&M
O7—Baylor
O14—Nebraska
O21—at Kansas State
O28—at Kansas
N4—Texas
N11—Oklahoma State
N18—at Oklahoma

Offensive philosophy: In his one-year apprenticeship at Oklahoma, Mike Leach unveiled an aggressive, pass-oriented offense that helped return the Sooners to the bowl scene. Now the 39-year-old rookie head coach who also masterminded the "Air Raid" offense at Kentucky that set six NCAA records and 116 school records hopes to recreate the same success in Lubbock. Expect three to five wide receivers on the field at any time and mostly one-back sets.

Offensive stars: Despite a one-back formation, Tech has two exceptional players. Ricky Williams had a season-ending knee injury in last season's opener and was greeted in the offseason with an air-happy coach. His situation isn't all that desperate because the once-upon-a-time Heisman candidate could excel in this offense if Shaud Williams, the Red Raiders' smallish but lightning-quick back, gets the hang of playing in the slot. Sophomore OT Rex Richards, who is extremely athletic with outstanding balance, started the last seven games of the year as a true freshman.

Offensive concerns: QB Kliff Kingsbury, a coach's son, has great arm strength but only one start to his name, albeit a win over Leach's former Oklahoma team. Leach might not have the requisite talent at wide receiver to make his offense go. In fact, he might be counting heavily on James Wegener, a receiver with sprinter speed out of the Community College of San Francisco, to jump start it. Tim Baker is taller and stronger than a year ago but has little speed, and Derek Dorris is a tough possession type. Backup TB Rickey Hunter has possibilities. One of the nation's stoutest lines, these Red Raiders might do well to miss a time or two in the cafeteria line.

Defensive philosophy: Under new coordinator Greg McMackin, who in four seasons helped turn around the Seattle Seahawks defense, Tech will exert more pressure to create turnovers and score points. He wants defenders who can run and get upfield.

Defensive stars: No free safety in the Big 12 was as busy as Kevin Curtis, who won all-league honors after leading the Big 12 with 153 tackles. He'll move to strong safety to replace John Norman, who beefed up to 230 pounds and moved to linebacker. He could be the team's most versatile player. Despite starting only one game, reserve E Aaron Hunt had five sacks.

Defensive concerns: All three linebackers are new, and the coaches are hoping MLB Rusty Bucy bounces back from knee surgery. The help-wanted sign remains for cornerbacks, a troublesome area at Tech for some time, although Antwan Alexander has some game.

Special teams: Senior K Chris Birkholz has connected on 23-of-34 field-goal attempts in his career but is only nine-of-20 beyond 40 yards. Eric Rosiles had a decent year at punter, landing 14 inside the opponents' 20. Kick return duties are a scramble.

Head coach: After 13 years with the comedic motivator who was Spike Dykes, Leach offers a similar affable style but isn't the public speaker his predecessor was. As innovative as they come, he can dream up more plays before his second cup of coffee than most coaches can in a career. Leach didn't keep a single coach off Dykes' staff but did hire Sonny Dykes, Spike's youngest son, off the Kentucky staff where he tutored tight ends, including All-American James Whalen.

TEXAS TECH

What a difference a year makes: *After a season to forget, one-time Heisman hopeful Ricky Williams needs a season to remember.*

Schedule: A rookie head coach's dream, the year opens with five of the first six at home and the original opener with Auburn swapped for Utah State. Playing Utah State, North Texas, Louisiana-Lafayette and Baylor in Lubbock in the first six weeks should greatly aid confidence. Games at Texas A&M and Kansas State and visits by Nebraska and Texas might not be so friendly.

Bottom line: With a brand new coach, quarterback, linebackers and cornerbacks, Tech needs a strong dose of early confidence to hit the ground running. A bowl game is possible, but this is a team that needs to stay healthy and get some crucial breaks.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Tim Baker**	**6-5**	**202**	**Sr.**	Cole Roberts	6-6	258	Jr.
T	**Rex Richards**	**6-5**	**280**	**So.**	*Toby Cecil	6-6	285	Fr.
G	**J.J. Williams**	**6-5**	**311**	**So.**	Lance Williams	6-2	316	Jr.
C	**Kyle Sanders**	**6-2**	**305**	**Sr.**	*Casey Keck	6-5	280	Fr.
G	Matt Heider	6-5	306	Jr.	Lance Williams	6-2	316	Jr.
T	Paul Erickson	6-4	279	Jr.	John DePasquale	6-4	299	Sr.
WR	**Derek Dorris**	**6-2**	**195**	**Sr.**	James Wegener	6-2	200	Jr.
WR	Darrell Jones	6-2	197	Jr.	*Carlos Francis	5-10	180	Fr.
QB	Kliff Kingsbury	6-4	185	So.	*B.J. Symons	6-1	185	Fr.
RB	Ricky Williams	5-9	190	Sr.	Rickey Hunter	5-11	188	Sr.
RB	**Shaud Williams**	**5-8**	**175**	**So.**	James Easterling	5-10	211	Sr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Devin Lemons**	**6-3**	**220**	**Sr.**	*Gathan McGinnis	6-0	239	Fr.
T	**Kris Kocurek**	**6-5**	**290**	**Sr.**	Lamont Anderson	6-4	265	So.
T	**Robert Wyatt**	**6-1**	**284**	**So.**	Lamont Anderson	6-4	265	So.
E	Aaron Hunt	6-2	225	So.	Will Culpepper	6-2	235	Sr.
OLB	Dorian Pitts	6-4	210	Sr.	Jonathan Hawkins	5-11	226	Sr.
MLB	Lawrence Flugence	6-1	210	So.	Michael Wilborn	6-0	266	Sr.
OLB	John Norman	6-1	230	Sr.	*Jason Wesley	5-11	201	Fr.
CB	Antwan Alexander	6-0	185	Jr.	*Eric Cooper	6-0	197	Fr.
SS	**Kevin Curtis**	**6-2**	**209**	**Jr.**	*Ryan Aycock	6-1	185	Fr.
FS	Mark Washington	5-11	193	Sr.	Paul McClendon	5-10	165	Jr.
CB	Brian Giddens	5-11	183	Sr.	Derrick Briggs	5-10	168	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Chris Birkholz**	**6-0**	**187**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Eric Rosiles**	**6-2**	**185**	**Sr.**

6 Baylor

NATIONAL RANK 88

Coach: Kevin Steele (1-10, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: Greg Meyre (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Brick Haley (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 31
Site: Waco, Texas
Stadium: Floyd Casey (grass, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (Southwest, tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1999 TSN rank: 111
1999 record: 1-10. Big 12 South: 0-8/6th

1999 Results

at Boston Col., L, 30-29
UNLV, L, 27-24
at Oklahoma, L, 41-10
Texas, L, 62-0
North Texas, W, 23-10
at Texas A&M, L, 45-13
Texas Tech, L, 35-7
at Kansas State, L, 48-7
at Kansas, L, 45-10
Colorado, L, 37-0
Oklahoma State, L, 34-14

Schedule

A31—at North Texas
S16—Minnesota
S23—South Florida
S30—Iowa State
O7—at Texas Tech
O14—Texas A&M
O21—at Nebraska
O28—at Texas
N4—Oklahoma
N11—Missouri
N18—at Oklahoma State

Offensive philosophy: After a haphazard offensive scheme because of little talent and less experience, Baylor will try to employ a hybrid offense of Nebraska's I-formation and Northwestern's multiple pro sets. The Bears could use one-back and three-back sets and even put the tailback in the slot but will emphasize the run with passes in the 20-to-25 attempts-per-game range.
Offensive stars: While void of any legitimate stars, the team is well-stocked at running back with Darrell Bush and Elijah Burkins, a pair of undersized but gritty seniors, and Derek Lagway, who is a wrecking ball at fullback. C Joe Jackson is an intelligent, quick-footed lineman who could play for any team in the nation.
Offensive concerns: With only a single win last season, this is a team completely devoid of confidence. The Bears had nothing to hang their hat on offensively in 1999 and desperately need transfer Greg Cicero, a one-time Texas quarterback who threw for 2,800 yards and 33 touchdowns at Palomar College in California, to unseat Mike Odum. Baylor must find receivers who can run good routes, make the tough catch and simply make a play. It has speed in Andra Fuller and Martin Dossett, but they are actual track stars who have yet to prove themselves in football.
Defensive philosophy: Head coach Kevin Steele is a product of the NFL and hopes to use more of the zone blitz his former Carolina Panthers used. The Bears will have to disguise it and guess right often because they will be smaller but quicker than last year's unit.
Defensive stars: MLB Kris Micheaux is the heart of the defense. CB Daniel Wilturner needs work on his footwork but is an emerging star after returning an interception and a blocked field goal for touchdowns last season. If immensely talented CB Gary Baxter has his head on straight, he could give Baylor a strong one-two punch at that position. Up front, DT Kevin Stevenson's motor runs full throttle every play, and he almost always is in the right position to make stops.
Defensive concerns: The line lacks the requisite size and strength to stop the run, which means Baylor will have to use its more experienced linebackers to share the load. That will put more pressure on a secondary that returns three starters. Redshirt freshman Joe Simmons is an above-average pass rusher but the Bears need more bulk up front on non-passing downs.
Special teams: This area is a huge unknown because the kicking duties probably will be won by two newcomers. Junior college All-American Adam Stiles was perfect in six field-goal attempts from beyond 40 yards, including one 50-yarder, and the 6-5 Kansan averaged 40 yards a punt. If he doesn't handle the punting, incoming freshman Robert Quiroga could. Teams shouldn't try to force Quiroga to fake any punts because he could be one of the Bears' top receivers after catching 51 passes as a senior and anchoring his high school's state champion mile relay team.
Head coach: Until he proves otherwise, Steele is going to be remembered for his gigantic faux pas in just his second game at Baylor. On the last play of the game against UNLV, he tried to score from inside the 10 only to have a fumble returned for a 100-yard score in a traumatizing 27-24 loss. The team clearly was shaken and never recovered. However, the Bears rallied around their first-year head coach and still believe in the highly organized, incredibly positive Steele.
Schedule: Although Baylor has been the doormat of the Big 12, the early schedule offers some intriguing possibilities. Opening at North Texas and then hosting Minnesota, new Division I-A team South Florida and struggling Iowa State, the Bears could pull off a few wins and gain a foothold for more confidence.
Bottom line: A bowl game isn't a realistic goal for a team that has won only three Big 12 games in four seasons. The Bears are shooting for as many as four or five victories overall and to show they can gradually turn around a program mired in ineptitude.

ROD AYDELOTTE / WACO TRIBUNE-HERALD

We got one: *Bush was the star of Baylor's only victory last season, rushing 27 times for 164 yards against North Texas.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Reggie Newhouse	6-1	195	So.	Lanny O'Steen	5-11	180	So.
T	**Ethan Kelley**	**6-2**	**297**	**So.**	*Derek Long	6-6	312	Fr.
G	Jon Erickson	6-6	300	Jr.	Derrick Pearcy	6-3	306	So.
C	**Joe Jackson**	**6-3**	**283**	**Jr.**	*Eric South	6-4	260	Fr.
G	**Tyshaun Whitson**	**6-6**	**293**	**Sr.**	*Cedric Fields	6-4	295	Fr.
T	**Greg Jerman**	**6-5**	**280**	**Jr.**	Luke Nichols	6-5	299	Jr.
TE	**Andrew Obriotti**	**6-3**	**239**	**Jr.**	Brandon Thompson	6-3	252	Sr.
WR	**Andra Fuller**	**5-11**	**182**	**Jr.**	Martin Dossett	5-11	170	Sr.
QB	Greg Cicero	6-4	210	Jr.	Mike Odum	6-3	239	Jr.
RB	**Darrell Bush**	**5-9**	**194**	**Sr.**	Chedrick Ricks	5-9	201	So.
FB	Derek Lagway	6-1	244	Sr.	**Melvin Barnett**	**6-0**	**252**	**Jr.**

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Charles Mann	6-3	240	So.	Eric Clay	6-1	235	Sr.
NT	**Ryan Gillenwater**	**6-1**	**287**	**Jr.**	Travis Hicks	6-3	289	So.
T	Kevin Stevenson	6-2	280	So.	Demetrio Phillips	6-4	289	Jr.
E	*Aaron Lard	6-2	258	Fr.	Derrel Simmons	6-3	246	So.
OLB	McKinley Bowie	6-2	245	Sr.	*Derrick Cash	6-0	202	Fr.
MLB	**Kris Micheaux**	**6-1**	**262**	**Sr.**	Kelvin Chaisson	6-2	228	So.
OLB	*Anthony Simmons	6-0	210	Fr.	Kyle Williams	5-11	228	Sr.
CB	**Daniel Wilturner**	**5-8**	**171**	**Sr.**	*Eric Giddens	5-11	179	Fr.
SS	**Samir Al-Amin**	**6-0**	**211**	**Jr.**	Kyle Staudt	6-2	206	Jr.
FS	*Matt Amendola	5-11	187	Fr.	Odell James	6-3	225	Sr.
CB	**Gary Baxter**	**6-2**	**195**	**Sr.**	Allen Pace	5-9	168	Sr.

Special Teams

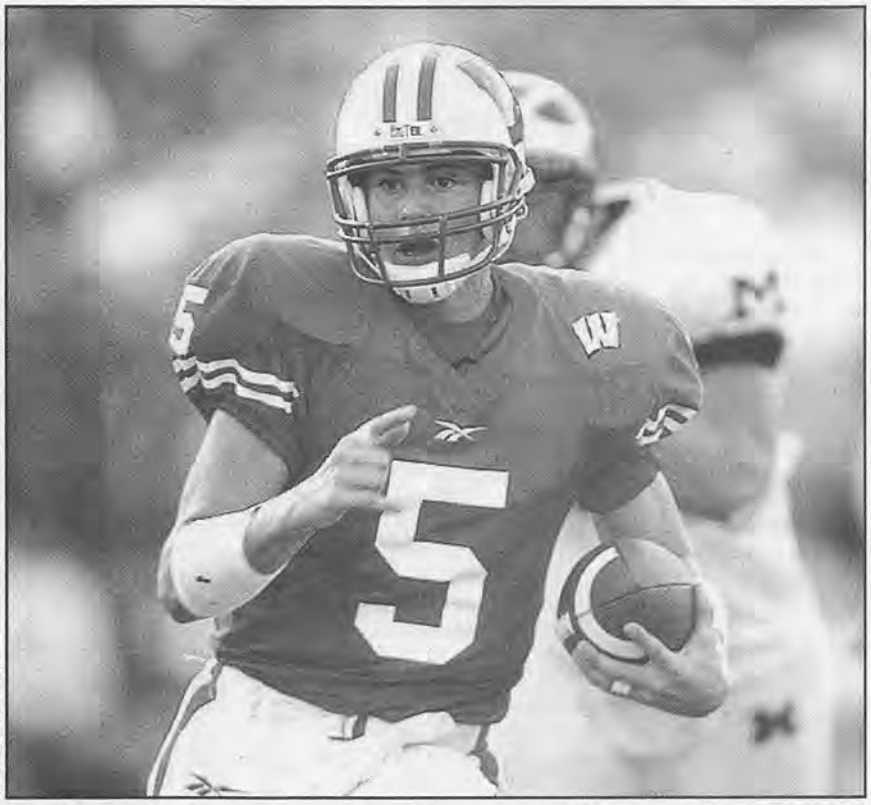
K	**Daniel Andino**	**5-11**	**219**	**So.**	P	**Ryan Chapdelaine**	**6-0**	**190**	**Jr.**

More on Baylor at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/baylor/ AOL keyword: TSN

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

SCOUTING THE BIG TEN

With so many good quarterbacks, expect teams to rely on strong-armed tactics to win games



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Into the cross hairs: *With Dayne gone, Wisconsin's opponents likely will turn their sights to Bollinger (above), whose efficient play down the stretch was a big reason behind the Badgers' 1999 Rose Bowl run.*

CONFERENCE RANK 3

By Rich Thomaselli

Hard as it is to believe in the "three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust" Big Ten, this is the year of the quarterback.

At least three, Indiana's Antwaan Randle El, Illinois' Kurt Kittner and Purdue's Drew Brees, will start the season in the running for the Heisman.

Each has the ability to take over and decide a game, although only two (Kittner and Brees) have the supporting cast to make a run at the conference title.

Behind them are two more quarterbacks who spent a good portion of 1999 settling into the starter's role. Brooks Bollinger took over for Scott Kavanagh at Wisconsin and led the team to eight consecutive victories to close the season. And Ohio State's Steve Bellisari emerged from an early-season rotation with Austin Moherman to become the starter for the Buckeyes.

Then there are the phenoms in Michigan: Drew Henson of the Wolverines and Michigan State's Ryan Van Dyke. Both ended up sitting for the majority of their first two seasons behind experienced quarterbacks. Now, it's their time to shine, although Henson, a prized baseball prospect, probably has more to work with.

Only at Minnesota, Iowa, Penn State and Northwestern is the quarterback situation tenuous, but make no mistake: The Big Ten is going to feature some high-powered passing attacks.

Ascending: Illinois. This was a program that was 0-11 in 1997 and 3-8 in 1998 before upsetting Michigan and Ohio State on the road last year en route to earning a berth in the Micronpc.com Bowl. A second consecutive bowl berth would restore even more credibility to the school.

Descending: Penn State. Graduation and the early departure of linebacker LaVar Arrington decimated the defense. Quarterback Rashard Casey's offseason arrest clouds his future, and the running game failed to show up at key points last year. And, hey, when was the last time Penn State was in the thick of the national championship race on New Year's Day?

Dream schedule: For the second year in a row, the Oscar for "Best Impersonation of a Schedule" goes to Wisconsin. The Badgers have a semi-tough test at home against Oregon and must travel to Michigan, which has beaten the Badgers the last three years. But Wisconsin gets Ohio State and Purdue at home, a weakened Michigan State on the road and avoids Penn State. If the Badgers beat Michigan, they could be a national championship contender.

Nightmare schedule: As if having to rebuild the program isn't enough, second-year Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz can't be thrilled with his lineup of opponents. The Hawkeyes, 1-10 last year and winless in the Big Ten, have non-league games against Kansas State, Iowa State and Nebraska. Then, after opening conference play against Indiana, Iowa gets (in order) Michigan State, Illinois, Ohio State, Wisconsin and Penn State.

Best matchup: The conference championship could be decided before October. On September 23, Penn State travels to Ohio State and Illinois welcomes Michigan. A week later, the Wolverines host Wisconsin.

Ugliest matchup: If a tree falls during the Northwestern at Iowa game November 11, will anyone outside Iowa City hear it?

Upset of the year: The Nittany Lions not only are breaking in nine new defensive starters, they're also breaking in a new defensive coordinator. Former secondary coach Tom Bradley takes over for Jerry Sandusky, who retired after 23 years in the post. Wait until Bradley gets a load of Randle El October 28 in Bloomington, where Cam Cameron finally gets the big win he has been looking for the past three seasons.

Bowl bound: Wisconsin, Michigan, Purdue, Illinois, Ohio State, Penn

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
Illinois	3	8	3	4	6	10	10	9	8	7
Indiana	2	6	11	7	11	9	9	10	7	9
Iowa	10	4	10	9	10	11	11	11	11	11
Michigan	5	2	1	2	7	8	2	6	3	3
Michigan St.	6	10	4	8	5	1	3	2	6	8
Minnesota	11	9	7	10	3	4	4	3	4	5
Northwestern	9	11	9	11	4	2	7	5	10	10
Ohio State	8	1	8	3	2	5	5	4	2	6
Penn State	4	7	5	6	9	7	6	8	9	4
Purdue	1	5	2	1	8	6	8	7	5	2
Wisconsin	7	3	6	5	1	3	1	1	1	1

State, Michigan State.

Biggest shoes to fill: Figuratively and literally, they would belong to Ron Dayne. Wisconsin's 260-pound Heisman Trophy winner has taken his wrecking ball to the NFL. The Badgers will turn to the two-headed monster of juniors Michael Bennett and Carlos Daniels until one emerges. Watch out for redshirt freshman Broderick Williams, too.

Most overrated player: He hasn't even assumed the starting role yet, but they've been salivating in Ann Arbor over Henson since the schoolboy wonder committed to coach Lloyd Carr as a high school sophomore. Now Henson has to live up to the hype. Whether he wants to admit it, Carr had Henson split the quarterbacking duties with Tom Brady last year through the first six games because of Henson's "out." He's a $2 million bonus baby with the New York Yankees, who envision Henson as their third baseman of the future. But Brady clearly emerged as the best quarterback and took command the last half of the year, finishing with a record-setting performance in the Orange Bowl. That's the legacy Henson has to live up to..

Most underrated player: Ever wonder why people made such a big deal out of Minnesota strong safety Tyrone Carter? Well, he was a darn good player, of course. But part of his success had to do with the rapid development and improvement of DE Karon Riley. Last year, the senior had a Big Ten-best 16 sacks, 22 tackles for losses and three forced fumbles. Riley was a big reason the Gophers finished 8-4 and headed to their first bowl since 1986.

Best coach: Minnesota's Glen Mason is college football's Mr. Fix-It. He has revived programs at Kent and Kansas. He can add Minnesota to his list. He believes in keeping things simple on offense and playing rugged defense.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Time's up: *It's time for Henson to make Michigan fans salivate at what he can do on a football field.*

Best staff: Barry Alvarez is heading into his 11th season as Wisconsin's coach. Not only has he provided the program with stability, he has surrounded himself with able assistants. Defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove has put together a terrific, aggressive unit, and quarterbacks coach Jeff Horton helped nudge Bollinger to the success he enjoyed last year as a true freshman. Wisconsin's staff also helped take care of business when Alvarez was forced to the press box for several games last year because of a bum knee that eventually required surgery. A close second? How about Michigan State? Sure, the Spartans lost Nick Saban to LSU, but the staff rallied around longtime assistant Bobby Williams and lobbied heavily for him to be promoted to head coach before the Citrus Bowl. That kind of closeness is rarely found.

Coach on the hot seat: It seems as if Ohio State coach John Cooper is perpetually in this position, but that's usually after the Michigan game. Now, Coop is coming off a 6-6 season in which the Buckeyes were shut out of a bowl game for the first time since 1988, his first year in Columbus. Ohio State had a good recruiting class, but you have to wonder if all those years in which the Buckeyes lost players early to the NFL finally caught up with the program.

Best bets: It will be running back Levron Williams, not quarterback Randle El, who emerges as a star this season from Indiana. .... Purdue has loads of talent on offense, but defensive questions remain. At some point this year, the Boilermakers will win a 56-52 game, with Brees throwing for more than 500 yards. .... No firings, no resignations, no controversies: It will be a quiet year for Big Ten coaches. However, at least one coach will, at some point, bring up the unbalanced schedule and the fact not every team plays each other. .... Michigan State's linebacker-turned-running back T.J. Duckett will rush for more than 1,000 yards.

Odds and ends: The Big Ten is still stuck at 11 teams with no plans for a 12th. Commissioner Jim Delany says that after last year's flirtation with Notre Dame, the Big Ten has no plans to add a 12th program any time soon. Many names—Syracuse, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Missouri and Texas, among them—were bandied about after the Fighting Irish said "no" to the Big Ten, but conference insiders say they were all rumors. It appears it will take a groundswell of support from

Big Ten **IN A NUTSHELL**

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Wisconsin	Looking for running back with Ron Dayne gone. Playmakers needed at linebacker.	C Casey Rabach QB Brooks Bollinger	CB Jamar Fletcher T Wendell Bryant	Sept. 9 vs. Oregon Sept. 30 at Michigan
2. Michigan	QB Henson must use skill talent around him. Linebacking corps has to be rebuilt.	T Jeff Backus RB Anthony Thomas	S DeWayne Patmon LB Larry Foote	Sept. 16 at UCLA Sept. 30 vs. Wisconsin
3. Purdue	Go-to receivers need to develop. Secondary needs covermen.	QB Drew Brees T Matt Light	LB Akin Ayodele LB Jason Loerzel	Sept. 16 at Notre Dame Oct. 7 vs. Michigan
4. Ohio State	QB Bellisari needs to develop; RB is needed. Must get tougher and leadership is needed.	WR Ken-Yon Rambo WR Reggie Germany	T Mike Collins CB Nate Clements	Sept. 9 at Arizona Nov. 18 vs. Michigan
5. Michigan State	Receivers have to develop to stretch defenses. Playmakers need to develop up front.	RB T.J. Duckett QB Ryan Van Dyke	LB T.J. Turner CB Renaldo Hill	Sept. 23 vs. Notre Dame Oct. 14 vs. Wisconsin
6. Illinois	Receiving corps must continue to develop. This secondary needs help from iffy line.	QB Kurt Kittner T Marques Sullivan	LB Michael Young E Fred Wakefield	Sept. 16 vs. California Sept. 23 vs. Michigan
7. Penn State	Quarterback play is iffy; kicker needed. Line must develop quickly.	RB Eric McCoo T Kareem McKenzie	E Justin Kurpeikis T Jimmy Kennedy	Sept. 16 at Pittsburgh Sept. 23 at Ohio State
8. Minnesota	Need playmakers at quarterback/running back. Line needs to fortify after losing two starters.	C Ben Hamilton WR Ron Johnson	É Karon Riley T John Schlecht	Sept. 16 at Baylor Sept. 23 at Purdue
9. Indiana	Rehabbed line needs to create running room. Run-stuffers must step up on the line.	QB Antwaan Randle El RB Levron Williams	LB Justin Smith LB Devin Schaffer	Sept. 9 vs. NC State Oct. 7 at Northwestern
10. Iowa	Line needs to improve so skill talent can shine. Untested front line must help solid secondary.	RB Ladell Betts QB Scott Mullen	P Jason Baker LB LeVar Woods	Sept. 16 vs. Iowa State Sept. 30 at Indiana
11. Northwestern	It's time for someone to emerge at quarterback. Strong line must anchor a veteran unit.	RB Damien Anderson WR Sam Simmons	LB Kevin Bentley E Dwayne Missouri	Sept. 16 at TCU Sept. 30 at Michigan State

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-BIG TEN

First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	David Terrell, Michigan	6-3	208	Jr.
WR	Ken-Yon Rambo, Ohio State	6-1	190	Sr.
TE	Tim Stratton, Purdue	6-4	252	Jr.
T	Jeff Backus, Michigan	6-6	298	Sr.
T	Kareem McKenzie, Penn State	6-7	321	Sr.
G	Bill Ferrario, Wisconsin	6-3	302	Sr.
G	Steve Hutchinson, Michigan	6-5	298	Sr.
C	Ben Hamilton, Minnesota	6-5	271	Sr.
QB	Drew Brees, Purdue	6-1	220	Sr.
RB	Damien Anderson, Northwestern	5-11	208	Jr.
RB	Anthony Thomas, Michigan	6-2	225	Sr.

Defense

E	John Favret, Wisconsin	6-4	230	Sr.
E	Karon Riley, Minnesota	6-4	247	Sr.
T	Wendell Bryant, Wisconsin	6-4	298	Jr.
LB	Kevin Bentley, Northwestern	6-1	233	Jr.
LB	T.J. Turner, Michigan State	6-2	252	Sr.
LB	Sean Hoffman, Minnesota	6-3	244	Sr.
LB	Josh Thornhill, Michigan State	6-3	243	Jr.
CB	Jamar Fletcher, Wisconsin	5-10	170	Jr.
CB	Renaldo Hill, Michigan State	5-11	175	Sr.
S	Jason Doering, Wisconsin	6-0	200	Sr.
S	Muhammad Abdullah, Illinois	6-1	195	Jr.

Specialists

K	Dan Nystrom, Minnesota	5-11	205	So.
P	Craig Jarrett, Michigan State	6-2	206	Jr.
KR	Nick Davis, Wisconsin	5-10	180	Jr.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Chris Chambers, Wisconsin	6-1	206	Sr.
WR	Vinny Sutherland, Purdue	5-9	191	Sr.
TE	Chris Baker, Michigan State	6-3	255	Jr.
T	Marques Sullivan, Illinois	6-5	315	Sr.
T	Matt Light, Purdue	6-5	296	Sr.
G	Shaun Mason, Michigan State	6-5	295	Sr.
G	Ray Redziniak, Illinois	6-3	290	Sr.
C	Casey Rabach, Wisconsin	6-5	286	Sr.
QB	Kurt Kittner, Illinois	6-3	205	Jr.
RB	Levron Williams, Indiana	6-3	215	Jr.
RB	T.J. Duckett, Michigan State	6-2	255	So.

Defense

E	Fred Wakefield, Illinois	6-7	265	Sr.
E	Justin Kurpeikis, Penn State	6-4	255	Sr.
T	Mike Collins, Ohio State	6-3	290	Jr.
LB	Ben Mezera, Minnesota	6-4	237	Sr.
LB	Napoleon Harris, Northwestern	6-3	235	Jr.
LB	Akin Ayodele, Purdue	6-2	250	Jr.
LB	Larry Foote, Michigan	6-1	226	Jr.
CB	Mike Echols, Wisconsin	5-10	169	Jr.
CB	Willie Middlebrooks, Minnesota	6-2	194	Jr.
S	DeWayne Patmon, Michigan	6-0	190	Sr.
S	Rashad Morton, Northwestern	5-11	213	Sr.

Specialists

K	Vitaly Pisetsky, Wisconsin	5-10	228	Sr.
P	Kevin Stemke, Wisconsin	6-2	187	Sr.
KR	Vinny Sutherland, Purdue	5-9	191	Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Offense: Charles Rogers, WR, Michigan State
Defense: Marco Cooper, LB, Ohio State

the league's coaches, many of whom are in favor of a 12th team so the league can split into two divisions and play a somewhat balanced schedule, to get a 12th school on board. But those same coaches will have to convince their athletic directors, who in turn must convince the school presidents. Any school other than Notre Dame lacks the marquee value the conference wants in a 12th school. ... Michigan entertained the idea of opening the season in the Kickoff Classic. But Boston College balked at the idea of playing the Wolverines, who in turn balked at the idea of playing Virginia Tech and Heisman Trophy candidate Michael Vick. Ironically, Michigan's decision not to play in the game was faxed to Kickoff Classic officials one day after the forced resignation of A.D. Tom Goss. It appeared that Goss wanted the game for the exposure and to appease influential alumni on the East Coast, but Carr was leery about adding a 12th game after watching Ohio State lose in the Kickoff Classic last year and fail to make a bowl. ... Look for Purdue's Joe Tiller to receive a well-earned raise and extension if he leads the Boilermakers to an unprecedented fourth consecutive bowl. Illinois' Ron Turner got such a deal after last season. ... Think Cooper wasn't concerned about that 6-6 mark? He fired offensive coordinator Mike Jacobs and replaced him with receivers coach Chuck Stobart, and hired George Belu from Wake Forest to coach the offensive line and Brian Williams from Pittsburgh to handle the linebackers. Fred Pagac was elevated from defensive coordinator to assistant head coach, and defensive backs coach Jon Tenuta will now be the defensive coordinator.

Recruiting RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Charles Rogers	WR	6-4/190	Saginaw, Mich./Saginaw	Michigan State
2. Sam Maldonado	RB	6-2/215	Harrison, N.Y./Harrison	Ohio State
3. Marco Cooper	LB	6-2/230	Detroit, Mich./Cass Tech	Ohio State
4. Jeff Smoker	QB	6-4/190	Manheim, Pa./Central	Michigan State
5. Chris McKelvy	OL	6-4/295	Lansdale, Pa./North Penn	Penn State
6. Sam Ruhe	DE	6-5/240	Stow, Ohio/Walsh Jesuit	Penn State
7. Tyrell Dortch	RB	5-11/195	Hoboken, N.J./Hoboken	Michigan State
8. Branden Joe	RB	6-2/230	Westerville, Ohio/Westerville	Ohio State
9. Michael Gasparato	RB	6-0/205	Columbia, S.C./Dutch Fork	Penn State
10. Zac Wasserman	QB	6-4/203	Westlake, Calif./Westlake	Penn State
11. Alphonso Townsend	DE	6-6/280	Lima, Ohio/Senior	Ohio State
12. Chris Perry	RB	6-2/215	Fork Union, Va./Fork Union Military	Michigan
13. Markus Curry	WR	6-0/185	Harper Woods, Mich./Gallagher	Michigan
14. Jermelle Lewis	RB	6-0/215	Bloomfield, Conn./Bloomfield	Iowa
15. Darius Jones	LB	6-3/250	Beloit, Wis./Memorial	Wisconsin
16. Tony Johnson	RB	5-11/186	State College, Pa./State College	Penn State
17. Stu Schweigert	ATH	6-3/198	Saginaw, Mich./Heritage	Purdue
18. Sean Poole	OL	6-7/295	Flint, Mich./Central	Michigan State
19. Dominique Sims	DB	6-2/195	Minneapolis, Minn./De La Salle	Minnesota
20. Terry Pogue	RB	6-2/220	Dayton, Ohio/Colonel White	Ohio State
21. Larry Stevens	DB	6-4/228	Tacoma, Wash./Wilson	Michigan
22. Tim Johnson	LB	6-3/245	Delbarton, N.J./Delbarton	Penn State
23. Erik Noll	DT	6-5/295	Gaithersburg, Md./Watkins Mill	Penn State
24. Tyrone Griffin	RB	6-0/245	St. Louis, Mo./Sumner	Wisconsin
25. Jamaal Clark	WR	6-1/191	St. Louis, Mo./Riverview Gardens	Illinois
26. Robert Reynolds	LB	6-4/210	Bowling Green, Ky./Bowling Green	Ohio State
27. Reggie Benton	RB	6-1/190	Grand Blanc, Mich./Grand Blanc	Michigan
28. Steve Williams	DT	6-4/250	Bollingbrook, Ill./Bollingbrook	Indiana
29. Will Smith	DE	6-4/230	Utica, N.Y./Proctor	Ohio State
30. Brandon Hance	QB	6-1/188	Woodland Hills, Calif./Taft	Purdue
31. Tony Stauss	QB	6-2/195	Racine, Wis./Horlick	Northwestern
32. Kalvin Barrett	OL	6-2/300	Oceanside, Calif./El Camino	Wisconsin
33. Dwight Whitfield	DL	6-3/275	St. Louis, Mo./Vashon	Michigan State
34. David Baas	OL	6-6/295	Sarasota, Fla./Riverview	Michigan
35. Sean McHugh	LB	6-6/245	Chagrin Falls, Ohio/Chagrin Falls	Penn State
36. Kareem Timbers	DB	6-3/200	Chicago, Ill./Mt. Carmel	Wisconsin
37. Travann Hayes	WR	5-11/175	Elgin, Ill./Larkin	Wisconsin
38. Marcus Sanders	RB	6-0/180	Ravenna, Ohio/Ravenna	Minnesota
39. Gary Heaggans	WR	6-2/185	Kansas City, Kan./Schlagle	Purdue
40. Scott Davis	LB	6-3/265	Parkersburg, WVa./Parkersburg	Penn State

RANKING the CLASSES

1. Penn State
2. Michigan State
3. Ohio State
4. Michigan
5. Wisconsin
6. Purdue
7. Illinois
8. Minnesota
9. Indiana
10. Iowa
11. Northwestern

Players of the Year

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

DEFENSE

Drew Brees, QB, Purdue

Drew Brees is fine, but he wouldn't mind being in the eye of the Heisman storm if it means a championship.

"Sure," says the Purdue senior quarterback who finished fourth in balloting last year, "you think about the Heisman. I mean, heck, it's right there wherever you go. But I came back for a lot of reasons, and one of the most important was to win the Big Ten."

The Boilermakers haven't been to Pasadena since the 1966 season when they claimed a 14-13 victory over USC. But with Brees at the controls of an attack that returns eight starters, the Boilermakers will go as far as a defense that returns five starters takes them.

In two seasons as the starter, Brees has thrown for 8,124 yards and 64 touchdowns. Last year, in leading Purdue to a third consecutive bowl, he threw for 325.8 yards per game and completed 60.9 percent of his passes. But Brees is used to success.

At 12, he was one of Texas' top-ranked tennis players for his age. His Austin (Texas) Westlake high school team was 28-0-1 his two years as starter. And football is in his blood.Grandfather Ray Akins was among the most successful prep coaches in Texas history, and his uncle, Marty Akins, was an all-league quarterback at Texas in '75.

While his pedigree is good, Brees, 6-1, 220, knows that to win college football's ultimate individual honor—and to take his team to an unprecedented fourth consecutive bowl and the top of the Big Ten—he needs to become more effective in the red zone.

"There's a lot of work yet to be done," he says "But that's why I came back." —*Rich Thomaselli*

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

DEFENSE

Jamar Fletcher, CB, Wisconsin

At 5-10, 170 pounds, Jamar Fletcher plays bigger than he is. He even plays bigger than his stature, if that's possible.

In two years, Wisconsin's outstanding left cornerback has established himself as the premier cover corner in the country. Fletcher led the Big Ten in interceptions in '99 for the second consecutive season with seven picks and ranked fourth in pass breakups with 16. But it's not only the numbers that make the junior so good. It's his reputation.

"He's gotten to the point where (Michigan's Charles) Woodson was a few years ago," says one Big Ten offensive coordinator, referring to the cornerback who in 1997 became the first primarily defensive player to win the Heisman Trophy. "Woodson cut off a third, maybe half the field because teams were afraid to throw to his side. Same thing with Fletcher. You watch this year, how many teams avoid him."

Rightfully so. Fletcher is a rare combination of speed, stamina and strength. He has the wheels to stay with swift receivers and the physicality to jam wideouts at the line, traits needed in big games.

"I think everybody likes to be on the stage, in the spotlight," says Fletcher, who has returned five picks for touchdowns in his career. "I think people rise to the occasion in those circumstances."

For Fletcher and the Badgers, every game will be under the spotlight in 2000. Wisconsin, returning eight defensive starters along with three starting offensive linemen and quarterback Brooks Bollinger, will be the favorite in the Big Ten. That's how Fletcher likes it.

"You play your best games," he says, "when everybody is coming to get you."—*Rich Thomaselli*

Big Ten

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, Sr.	11	303	1,834	6.1	19	166.7
2. Thomas Hamner, Minnesota, Sr.	11	288	1,362	4.7	10	123.8
3. Anthony Thomas, Michigan, Jr.	**11**	**283**	**1,257**	**4.4**	**16**	**114.3**
4. Damien Anderson, Northwestern, Jr.	**11**	**306**	**1,128**	**3.7**	**3**	**102.6**
5. Michael Wiley, Ohio State, Sr.	12	183	952	5.2	10	79.3
6. Ladell Betts, Iowa, So.	**11**	**189**	**857**	**4.5**	**5**	**77.9**
7. Lloyd Clemons, Michigan State, Sr.	11	171	854	5.0	0	77.6
8. Levron Williams, Indiana, So.	**11**	**118**	**817**	**6.9**	**4**	**74.3**
9. Billy Cockerham, Minnesota, Sr.	11	156	805	5.2	10	73.2
10. Antwaan Randle El, Indiana, So.	**11**	**224**	**788**	**3.5**	**13**	**71.6**

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Rashard Casey, Penn State, Jr.	**12**	**94**	**59**	**.628**	**3**	**856**	**9.1**	**6**	**153.9**
2. Brooks Bollinger, Wisconsin, Fr.	**11**	**126**	**75**	**.595**	**2**	**1,028**	**8.2**	**8**	**145.8**
3. Tom Brady, Michigan, Sr.	11	295	180	.610	6	2,217	7.5	16	138.0
4. Antwaan Randle El, Ind., So.	**11**	**279**	**150**	**.538**	**7**	**2,277**	**8.2**	**17**	**137.4**
5. Kevin Thompson, Penn State, Sr.	12	242	133	.549	9	1,916	7.9	13	131.8
6. Drew Brees, Purdue, Jr.	**11**	**494**	**301**	**.609**	**11**	**3,531**	**7.2**	**21**	**130.5**
7. Billy Cockerham, Minnesota, Sr.	11	239	128	.536	8	1,834	7.7	12	127.9
8. Kurt Kittner, Illinois, So.	**11**	**372**	**202**	**.543**	**4**	**2,448**	**6.6**	**22**	**126.9**
9. Bill Burke, Michigan State, Sr.	11	277	152	.549	16	1,957	7.1	17	122.9
10. Steve Bellisari, Ohio State, So.	**12**	**224**	**101**	**.451**	**9**	**1,616**	**7.2**	**12**	**115.3**

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Chris Daniels, Purdue, Sr.	11	109	1,133	5	9.9	10.4
2. Kevin Kasper, Iowa, Jr.	**10**	**60**	**664**	**3**	**6.0**	**11.1**
3. David Terrell, Michigan, So.	**11**	**61**	**888**	**4**	**5.6**	**14.6**
4. Plaxico Burress, Michigan State, Jr.	11	53	957	9	4.8	18.1
5. Tim Stratton, Purdue, So.	**11**	**48**	**585**	**4**	**4.4**	**12.2**
6. Randall Lane, Purdue, Sr.	11	47	630	5	4.3	13.4
7. Chris Chambers, Wisconsin, Jr.	**9**	**36**	**502**	**4**	**4.0**	**13.9**
8. Michael Dean, Illinois, Sr.	11	43	566	4	3.9	13.2
9. Reggie Germany, Ohio State, Jr.	**12**	**43**	**656**	**1**	**3.6**	**15.3**
10. Ken-Yon Rambo, Ohio State, Jr.	**12**	**41**	**833**	**6**	**3.4**	**20.3**

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Wisconsin (3)	279.5
2. Minnesota (11)	239.1
3. Indiana (19)	191.4
4. Penn State (23)	186.0
5. Ohio State (38)	166.5
6. Illinois (42)	159.7
7. Michigan State (57)	146.8
8. Northwestern (68)	141.4
9. Michigan (79)	129.5
10. Purdue (82)	128.0
11. Iowa (103)	93.5

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Purdue (4)	328.0
2. Michigan (24)	255.3
3. Penn State (38)	231.3
4. Illinois (42)	229.0
5. Michigan State (52)	218.5
6. Indiana (57)	214.5
7. Iowa (63)	206.8
8. Ohio State (80)	181.2
9. Minnesota (84	176.3
10. Wisconsin (98)	145.1
11. Northwestern (100)	143.3

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Purdue (8)	456.0
2. Wisconsin (15)	424.6
3. Penn State (21)	417.3
4. Minnesota (24)	415.4
5. Indiana (34)	405.9
6. Illinois (47)	388.7
7. Michigan (48)	384.8
8. Michigan State (67)	365.3
9. Ohio State (74)	347.7
10. Iowa (97)	300.3
11. Northwestern (103)	284.6

Defense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Michigan State (5)	77.0
2. Michigan (26)	115.1
3. Penn State (27)	116.6
4. Wisconsin (33)	120.4
5. Purdue (46)	137.8
6. Minnesota (47)	138.7
7. Ohio State (71)	159.7
8. Illinois (82)	169.3
9. Northwestern (92)	187.6
10. Indiana (101)	211.1
11. Iowa (114)	246.9

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. Wisconsin (5)	96.3
2. Minnesota (8)	98.3
3. Penn State (28)	110.6
4. Illinois (31)	112.3
5. Michigan State (34)	112.4
6. Northwestern (38)	113.4
7. Michigan (62)	122.3
8. Ohio State (65)	123.1
9. Purdue (70)	124.7
10. Indiana (91)	132.6
11. Iowa (111)	146.1

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Michigan State (12)	299.0
2. Wisconsin (15)	301.6
3. Minnesota (22)	313.4
4. Penn State (27)	320.4
5. Michigan (32)	335.5
6. Ohio State (54)	362.3
7. Purdue (56)	363.6
8. Northwestern (81)	388.0
9. Illinois (82)	388.5
10. Indiana (104)	430.1
11. Iowa (111)	465.0

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Wisconsin

NATIONAL RANK 4

Coach: Barry Alvarez (70-44-4, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Brian White (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Kevin Cosgrove (6th season)
Offensive scheme: Offset I
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 50
Site: Madison, Wis.
Stadium: Camp Randall (turf, 76,129)
Last league title won: 1999
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1995
1999 TSN rank: 4
1999 record: 10-2 (beat Stanford in Rose Bowl). Big Ten: 7-1/1st

1999 Results

Murray State, W, 49-10
Ball State, W, 50-10
at Cincinnati, L, 17-12
Michigan, L, 21-16
at Ohio State, W, 42-17
at Minnesota, W, 20-17
Indiana, W, 59-0
Michigan State, W, 40-10
at Northwestern, W, 35-19
at Purdue, W, 28-21
Iowa, W, 41-3
Stanford, W, 17-9

Schedule

S2—Western Michigan
S9—Oregon
S16—Cincinnati
S23—Northwestern
S30—at Michigan
O7—Ohio State
O14—at Michigan State
O21—Purdue
O28—at Iowa
N4—Minnesota
N11—at Indiana
N25—at Hawaii

Offensive philosophy: Word has it the Badgers will diversify their attack now that Ron Dayne has moved on to the NFL. That, of course, depends on Dayne's replacements and the development of QB Brooks Bollinger. Nevertheless, expect this to be a power running team that will feature option and play-action passes.

Offensive stars: The fleet-footed Bollinger was terrific after taking over the job, posting an 8-0 record as a starter and winning Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors. Now, he has to be even better. WR Chris Chambers is poised for a breakout year. Plagued by drops through much of his career, Chambers has 4.28 speed in the 40 and seems focused. C Casey Rabach and G Bill Ferrario anchor a line that returns three starters but will miss T Chris McIntosh.

Offensive concerns: Wisconsin will look to RBs Michael Bennett and Broderick Williams (a redshirt freshman) to form a two-headed monster—at least in the early going—as Dayne's replacement. Bennett and Williams possess sprinter's speed. Look for teams to flood the box to stop the run, given the inexperience in the backfield. That will force Bollinger to make more decisions. He also will have to improve his passing; he struggled on third-and-long plays last season.

Defensive philosophy: The Badgers are a quick, attacking group that makes up for a lack of size with speed and big hits. They swarm to the ball and are dedicated to stopping the run.

Defensive stars: CB Jamar Fletcher, who has run back a Big Ten-record five interceptions for touchdowns in his career, might be the nation's best cover corner. CB Mike Echols and FS Jason Doering also return, giving the Badgers a terrific secondary. DT Wendell Bryant ranks among America's best., and NT Eric Mahlik and E Ross Kolodziej are lunch-pail types who feast on stuffing the run. DE John Favret must turn up the heat on quarterbacks.

Defensive concerns: The heart and soul of the defense, LBs Donnel Thompson and Chris Ghidorzi, is gone. LBs Bryson Thompson's (Donnel's brother) and Nick Greisen must step up, along with athletic LB Roger Knight. Though the front seems solid with Bryant and Favret, the pass rush could improve. That's even more important since the linebacking corps is unrefined. The secondary ranks among the nation's best, but it can't cover forever.

Special teams: Once again, among the best in the Big Ten. Nick Davis has run back three punts and two kickoffs for touchdowns in his career. And he hast two years left. P Kevin Stemke, whose hang time and distance are impressive, is in an elite class. K Vitaly Pisetsky, a native of Russia, hit 16-of-20 field-goal attempts last year, and nearly 75 percent of his kickoffs reached the end zone.

Head coach: It's inevitable in this business that success will breed job offers, and Barry Alvarez is a wanted man. He has won three Rose Bowls at Wisconsin, including the last two, and has built one of the nation's best programs—one that now is capable of recruiting nationally. He also has inspired staff loyalty, which has been a key to success. But you have to believe Notre Dame, Alvarez's last place of employment before coming to Madison, will come calling should it make a coaching change.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

A real handful: *Bryant, one of three sophomores to win All-Big Ten first-team honors last year, will contend for All-American honors in 2000.*

Schedule: A home game with Oregon deviates from what typically is a soft non-league schedule. Wisconsin has to travel to Michigan and Michigan State, but Penn State and Illinois are off the menu and Purdue and Ohio State play in Madison.

Bottom line: Michigan has been Wisconsin's nemesis the last two years, handing the Badgers their only loss in 1998 and one of two last year. If Wisconsin can win at Ann Arbor, which has happened once since 1962, the Badgers should claim a third consecutive Big Ten title and may have a shot at the national championship.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Nick Davis**	**5-10**	**180**	**Jr.**	Lee Evans	5-11	182	So.
T	Ben Johnson	6-7	319	So.	Morgan Davis	6-5	300	Fr.
G	**Bill Ferrario**	**6-3**	**302**	**Sr.**	Jason Jowers	6-6	300	So.
C	**Casey Rabach**	**6-5**	**286**	**Sr.**	Al Johnson	6-4	281	So.
G	**Dave Costa**	**6-5**	**800**	**Sr.**	Jeremy Dox	6-3	282	Jr.
T	Brian Lamont	6-8	333	Jr.	Josh Jakubowski	6-6	331	Sr.
TE	**Dague Retzlaff**	**6-8**	**273**	**Sr.**	John Sigmund	6-6	273	Sr.
WR	**Chris Chambers**	**6-1**	**206**	**Sr.**	Conroy Whyte	5-7	159	Jr.
QB	**Brooks Bollinger**	**6-2**	**207**	**So.**	*Jim Sorgi	6-5	183	Fr.
RB	Michael Bennett	5-10	205	Jr.	*Broderick Williams	6-0	209	Fr.
FB	**Chad Kuhns**	**6-1**	**232**	**Jr.**	Carlos Daniels	6-1	245	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Ross Kolodziej**	**6-3**	**279**	**Sr.**	George Pratt	6-5	306	Jr.
NT	**Eric Mahlik**	**6-3**	**265**	**Sr.**	Jake Sprague	6-4	273	Jr.
T	**Wendell Bryant**	**6-4**	**298**	**Jr.**	Chuck Smith	6-6	267	Jr.
E	**John Favret**	**6-4**	**230**	**Sr.**	Ben Herbert	6-4	234	Jr.
OLB	**Roger Knight**	**6-2**	**221**	**Sr.**	Ryan Marks	6-1	216	Sr.
LB	Nick Greisen	6-2	239	Jr.	*Jeff Mack	6-0	230	Fr.
LB	Bryson Thompson	6-1	218	Jr.	*Darius Jones	6-3	263	Fr.
CB	**Jamar Fletcher**	**5-10**	**170**	**Jr.**	Bret Burlingame	6-0	194	Sr.
SS	Joey Boese	5-11	169	Jr.	Devery Hughes	5-11	175	So.
FS	**Jason Doering**	**6-0**	**200**	**Sr.**	Carlease Clark	5-11	181	Jr.
CB	**Mike Echols**	**5-10**	**169**	**Jr.**	B.J. Tucker	5-11	165	So.

Special Teams

K	**Vitaly Pisetsky**	**5-10**	**228**	**Sr.**
P	**Kevin Stemke**	**6-2**	**187**	**Sr.**

2 Michigan

NATIONAL RANK 12

Coach: Lloyd Carr (49-13, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Stan Parrish (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Jim Herrmann (11th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 44
Site: Ann Arbor, Mich.
Stadium: Michigan (grass, 107,501)
Last league title won: 1998 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1974
1999 TSN rank: 5
1999 record: 10-2 (beat Alabama in Orange Bowl). Big Ten: 6-2/T2nd

1999 Results

Notre Dame, W, 26-22
Rice, W, 37-3
at Syracuse, W, 18-13
at Wisconsin, W, 21-16
Purdue, W, 38-12
at Michigan St., L, 34-31
Illinois, L, 35-29
at Indiana, W, 34-31
Northwestern, W, 37-3
at Penn State, W, 31-27
Ohio State, W, 24-17
Alabama, W, 35-34

Schedule

S2—Bowling Green
S9—Rice
S16—at UCLA
S23—at Illinois
S30—Wisconsin
O7—at Purdue
O14—Indiana
O21—Michigan State
N4—at Northwestern
N11—Penn State
N18—at Ohio State

Offensive philosophy: No big secret here. The Wolverines liked to run the ball at the turn of the last century, and they like to run the ball at the turn of this century. That didn't happen much last year, when Michigan found more success throwing. But with six new starters on defense—and a new quarterback in control—the Wolverines will want to chew as much clock as possible.

Offensive stars: Aside from Drew Brees-led Purdue, Michigan might have the best offense in the Big Ten. The Wolverines have their own Drew in junior QB Drew Henson, a hotshot New York Yankees prospect who is taking over for the graduated Tom Brady. WR David Terrell is a big-game player whose 71 catches ranked second in the league last year. He's flanked by Marquise Walker, also a game-breaker type. TE Shawn Thompson may be special. In the backfield, RB Anthony Thomas was listed as the most overrated player in the Big Ten in this magazine a year ago. He responded by rushing for 1,257 of Michigan's 1,425 yards and scoring 16 touchdowns. He'll get help from Walter Cross and the return of Justin Fargas, who broke his leg and redshirted last season.

Offensive concerns: Michigan returns four-fifths of its line, led by T Jeff Backus and G Steve Hutchinson, but the Wolverines rushed for only 121.8 yards per game—the lowest total in 37 years. The development of Henson is a concern, but if the line again fails to open significant holes and the burden falls to Henson to make things happen, it could spell trouble.

Defensive philosophy: In the past, coordinator Jim Herrmann has been aggressive and had his unit play with abandon. The Wolverines got away from that at times last year, but with six new starters, expect Herrmann again to cut loose and employ his 11-men-to-the-ball theory.

Defensive stars: Cato June and DeWayne Patmon are two of the hardest-hitting safeties in the league. LBs Larry Foote and Victor Hobson, along with T Eric Wilson, have star potential.

Defensive concerns: Last year, coach Lloyd Carr called his defensive backs "The Suspects." This year, all four starters are back and must prove they're improved—especially CBs James Whitley and Todd Howard. Michigan will miss LBs Dhani Jones and Ian Gold, and NT Rob Renes. They provided a solid foundation for the middle of the defense, and LB James Hall and E Josh Williams provided the presence on the outside. Replacing those five will be difficult.

Special teams: Hayden Epstein, who handles all kicking chores, has the kind of leg kickers dream about. His kickoffs consistently sail through the end zone, and he has great range on field goals. The Wolverines haven't returned a kickoff or punt for a touchdown since Charles Woodson took a punt back in the 1997 regular-season finale against Ohio State.

Head coach: Carr is a master motivator and tactician. He's sometimes too rigid. Witness last year's "We're going to the run the ball or die trying" statement. But that might be more a product of his years under Bo Schembechler than anything. All you need to know about Carr is this: He's 11-1 against top 10 teams in his five years, and his 49-13 record ties him for fifth on the Division I-A list for best starts by coaches.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Scratching the surface: *June, a high school All-American, recorded 19 tackles in four starts at free safety at the end of last season.*

Schedule: The Wolverines turned down an invitation to play Virginia Tech in the Kickoff Classic, so they open with relatively easy games against Bowling Green and Rice before heading to UCLA. Their Big Ten schedule starts and finishes fast. Michigan opens at Illinois, is home to Wisconsin and goes to Purdue. It then finishes by welcoming Penn State and going to Ohio State.

Bottom line: Winning the '97 national title elevated the goals of the program, but any thoughts of a Big Ten title and a spot in the national championship game this season must be tempered until the early returns on the defense and quarterback are known. Still, big things are possible.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**David Terrell**	**6-3**	**208**	**Jr.**	Tyrece Butler	6-3	196	So.
T	**Jeff Backus**	**6-6**	**298**	**Sr.**	Joe Denay	6-7	291	So.
G	**Steve Hutchinson**	**6-5**	**298**	**Sr.**	Eric Warner	6-5	293	Sr.
C	**David Brandt**	**6-4**	**267**	**Sr.**	Jonathan Goodwin	6-4	290	Sr.
G	**Ben Mast**	**6-4**	**291**	**Jr.**	Kurt Anderson	6-4	273	Jr.
T	Maurice Williams	6-5	297	Sr.	*Demeterius Solomon	6-6	280	Fr.
TE	**Shawn Thompson**	**6-4**	**255**	**Jr.**	Bill Seymour	6-3	255	Jr.
WR	Marquise Walker	6-3	202	Jr.	Ronald Bellamy	6-0	179	So.
QB	Drew Henson	6-4	218	Jr.	*John Navarre	6-6	228	Fr.
RB	**Anthony Thomas**	**6-2**	**225**	**Sr.**	Walter Cross	5-11	201	Jr.
FB	B.J. Askew	6-3	206	So.	Dave Armstrong	6-3	274	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
T	**Eric Wilson**	**6-4**	**285**	**Sr.**	Dave Petruziello	6-4	280	So.
NT	*Grant Bowman	6-1	267	Fr.	*Dave Pearson	6-2	249	Fr.
E	Jake Frysinger	6-4	278	Sr.	Dan Rumishek	6-3	261	So.
OLB	**Victor Hobson**	**6-1**	**235**	**So.**	Andy Sechler	6-1	233	Sr.
ILB	Larry Foote	6-1	226	Jr	Anthony Jordan	6-0	215	Jr.
ILB	Eric Brackins	6-2	233	Jr.	*Carl Diggs	6-1	253	Fr.
OLB	*Shantee Orr	6-1	226	Fr.	Evan Coleman	6-0	252	Jr.
CB	**Todd Howard**	**5-10**	**180**	**Jr.**	Dan Williams	6-0	190	Sr.
S	**DeWayne Patmon**	**6-0**	**190**	**Sr.**	Julius Curry	6-0	186	So.
S	**Cato June**	**6-1**	**213**	**So.**	Charles Drake	6-1	183	So.
CB	**James Whitley**	**5-11**	**188**	**Sr.**	*Jeremy LeSueur	6-0	185	Fr

Special Teams

K	**Hayden Epstein**	**6-2**	**200**	**Jr.**	Jeff Del Verne	5-11	200	Sr.	**P**	**Hayden Epstein**	**6-2**	**200**	**Jr.**	Cory Sargent	6-3	209	Sr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

3 Purdue

NATIONAL RANK 14

Coach: Joe Tiller (25-12, 3 years; 64-42-1 overall, 9 years)
Offensive coordinator: Jim Chaney (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Brock Spack (4th season)
Offensive scheme: One-back spread
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 38
Site: West Lafayette, Ind.
Stadium: Ross-Ade (grass, 67,332)
Last league title won: 1967 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 24
1999 record: 7-5 (lost to Georgia in Outback Bowl). Big Ten: 4-4/T6th

1999 Results

at Central Fla., W, 47-13
Notre Dame, W, 28-23
Central Florida, W, 58-16
Northwestern, W, 31-23
at Michigan, L, 38-12
at Ohio State, L, 25-22
Michigan State, W, 52-28
Penn State, L, 31-25
at Minnesota, W, 33-28
Wisconsin, L, 28-21
at Indiana, W, 30-24
Georgia, L, 28-25 OT

Schedule

S2—Central Michigan
S9—Kent
S16—at Notre Dame
S23—Minnesota
S30—at Penn State
O7—Michigan
O14—at Northwestern
O21—at Wisconsin
O28—Ohio State
N11—at Michigan State
N18—Indiana

Offensive philosophy: Purdue likes to spread the field with four- and five-receiver sets, frequently playing with one or no running back in the formation. Look for a twist this year. Coaches have installed an H-back series and also may employ some two-back looks.
Offensive stars: The headliner is QB Drew Brees, who figures to leave school with nearly every Big Ten passing mark. Brees, a senior who enters his third season as the starter, excels at reading defenses, decision-making and finding the open man. He also is very accurate and a capable runner. Though Brees lost top targets Chris Daniels, who set a Big Ten season mark with 106 catches last season, and Randall Lane, he still has plenty of weapons. Chief among those are TE Tim Stratton and WR Vinny Sutherland. Coaches are counting on Keith Dawson and A.T. Simpson, two big targets, to emerge, as well as a few newcomers. Brees will benefit from the blocking of four returning linemen, as well as the running of shifty Montrell Lowe. Also, look for RB Steve Ennis to contribute.
Offensive concerns: Though Purdue returns ample talent, it needs to improve its efficiency in the red zone. The spread attack is terrific at moving the ball between the 20-yard lines, but the offense loses effectiveness as the field gets smaller. The H-back and two-back sets may solve that problem.
Defensive philosophy: The Boilermakers like to attack, which leads to big plays. It also can make the unit vulnerable to big plays, but the coaching staff's efforts to increase the speed have helped keep big plays to a minimum. The blitzing schemes also have helped the club produce a lot of turnovers, which has been a hidden secret to Purdue's success under Joe Tiller.
Defensive stars: The Boilers have playmakers up front in DT Matt Mitrione, who empties his bucket each down, and LB Akin Ayodele, a strong and swift pass rusher who moved from end.
Defensive concerns: The linebacking corps will miss Willie Fells and Mike Rose. The coaches will look to Ayodele, who will line up at end on passing downs, to mesh with athletic veterans Jason Loerzel and Joe Odom. The secondary, shaky in 1999, remains a concern, which makes rushing the passer that much more important. SS Ralph Turner, a rising talent, must replace the leadership, savvy and playmaking ability of SS Adrian Beasley. FS Ben Smith must come back strong from a season-ending knee injury. The cornerbacks are a concern. The coaches are high on Ashante Woodyard, a junior college transfer who redshirted last season. His combination of size and speed is rare. Because 1999 starter James Dunnigan flunked out of school, the other corner slot could be filled by diminutive senior Chris Clopton or a true freshman.
Special teams: As the staff has brought in more speed, the coverage units have improved. The return game even features a game breaker in Sutherland, who ran back two punts for touchdowns last season. However, the kicking is shaky. Travis Dorsch endured a sophomore slump in which he hit just 10-of-18 field-goal attempts. He seems to have a hangup about kicking off grass. A true freshman, or Dorsch, figures to assume Danny Rogers' punting chores.

PAUL NISELY / TSN

Nice debut: *Ayodele led the Boilermakers with 11 sacks in his first season on the team, just four shy of Rosevelt Colvin's school record.*

Head coach: Tiller continues to amaze as he enters his fourth season. His grace under pressure is an asset on game days, and his emphasis on a family atmosphere and fun have fostered a soaring team spirit.
Schedule: A 2-0 start is vital with Notre Dame and Penn State visiting in September. For the second year in a row, October is the make-or-break month.
Bottom line: Buoyed by the Heisman candidacy of Brees, Purdue should secure a fourth consecutive bowl appearance for the first time in school history. The Boilermakers could be a dark-horse Big Ten title contender. But for that to happen, the offense must deliver in the red zone and the secondary and linebackers must develop.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Vinny Sutherland**	**5-9**	**191**	**Sr.**	A.T. Simpson	6-4	219	Jr.
T	**Matt Light**	**6-5**	**296**	**Sr.**	Jason Eisele	6-4	260	Fr.
G	**Gene Mruczkowski**	**6-2**	**299**	**So.**	Sean Rufalo	6-2	274	Jr.
C	**Chukky Okobi**	**6-1**	**324**	**Sr.**	Sean Rufalo	6-2	274	Jr.
G	Ian Allen	6-5	289	Sr.	Rob Turner	6-4	298	So.
T	**Brandon Gorin**	**6-6**	**296**	**Sr.**	Kelly Kitchel	6-6	285	So.
TE	**Tim Stratton**	**6-4**	**252**	**Jr.**	Chris Randolph	6-4	255	Jr.
WR	Keith Dawson	6-3	194	Sr.	Seth Morales	5-10	160	So.
QB	**Drew Brees**	**6-1**	**220**	**Sr.**	Brandon Hance	6-1	188	Fr.
RB	**Montrell Lowe**	**5-8**	**189**	**So.**	Steve Ennis	6-0	215	So.
WR	Chris James	5-10	165	So.	Donald Winston	5-6	162	Sr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Brian Dinkins**	**6-2**	**263**	**Sr.**	Ike Moore	6-2	275	Sr.
T	**Matt Mitrione**	**6-3**	**289**	**Jr.**	Derrick Williams	6-4	296	Sr.
T	Brent Botts	6-3	267	Sr.	*Craig Terrill	6-3	255	Fr.
E	*Shaun Phillips	6-3	222	Fr.	*Kevin Nesfield	6-3	206	Fr.
OLB	**Jason Loerzel**	**6-3**	**221**	**Jr.**	*Landon Johnson	6-2	200	Fr.
MLB	Joe Odom	6-2	231	So.	Tim Upshur	6-1	219	Jr.
OLB	**Akin Ayodele**	**6-2**	**250**	**Jr.**	Cornell Middlebrook	6-2	229	So.
CB	Ashante Woodyard	6-2	200	Sr.	*Jared Curtis	5-8	153	Fr.
SS	**Ralph Turner**	**6-2**	**208**	**So.**	Tom Vaughan	6-0	195	Sr.
FS	Ben Smith	6-3	208	Jr.	Brady Doe	6-0	189	Jr.
CB	Chris Clopton	5-7	170	Sr.	R'Kes Starling	5-7	171	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Travis Dorsch**	**6-6**	**219**	**Jr.**	Scott Kurz	6-0	189	Sr.	**P**	**Travis Dorsch**	**6-6**	**219**	**Jr.**	Scott Kurz	6-0	189	Sr.

More on Purdue at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/purdue/ AOL keyword: TSN

4 Ohio State

NATIONAL RANK 15

Coach: John Cooper (103-39-4, 12 years; 185-79-6 overall, 23 years)
Offensive coordinator: Chuck Stobart (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Jon Tenuta (1st season)
Offensive scheme: I-formation
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 40
Site: Columbus, Ohio
Stadium: Ohio (grass, 89,841)
Last league title won: 1998 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 41
1999 record: 6-6. Big Ten: 3-5/T8th

1999 Results

Miami (Fla.), L, 23-12
UCLA, W, 42-20
Ohio, W, 40-16
Cincinnati, W, 34-20
Wisconsin, L, 42-17
Purdue, W, 25-22
at Penn State, L, 23-10
at Minnesota, W, 20-17
Iowa, W, 41-11
at Michigan State, L, 23-7
Illinois, L, 46-20
at Michigan, L, 24-17

Schedule

S2—Fresno State
S9—at Arizona
S16—Miami (Ohio)
S23—Penn State
O7—at Wisconsin
O14—Minnesota
O21—at Iowa
O28—at Purdue
N4—Michigan State
N11—at Illinois
N18—Michigan

Offensive philosophy: New coordinator Chuck Stobart, formerly the receivers coach, will use the talents of his quarterback to key the offense. Steve Bellisari is a runner-thrower, so look for Ohio State to try more sprint-outs, rollouts and quarterback draws to take advantage of Bellisari's athletic ability.
Offensive stars: The Big Ten is blessed with outstanding receivers, and two of the best are Ken-Yon Rambo and Reggie Germany. Both are game breakers with the potential to turn a 7-yard pass into a 70-yard touchdown. Bellisari took knocks last year for his .451 completion percentage, but he essentially was splitting the job with Austin Moherman (who has transferred) through training camp and the first few games. Then, he had to adjust to being the main man. Bellisari will be fine.
Offensive concerns: RB Michael Wiley and his 952 yards rushing are gone. Derek Combs figures to give the Buckeyes a semblance of a running game to take pressure off Bellisari and allow him to get the ball to the playmakers at wide receiver. Veteran C Kurt Murphy and G Ben Gilbert need to be replaced. Look for promising Tam Hopkins to emerge at a guard slot for a line that needs to be tougher.
Defensive philosophy: Like almost every team in the Big Ten, the Buckeyes will have a co-dependent relationship between the line and the secondary. The better the linemen rush the quarterback, the better the weakened secondary will be.
Defensive stars: The loss of LB Na'il Diggs, who opted to leave early for the NFL, is a big one. David Mitchell, who gained experience as a nickel back in '99, will replace CB Ahmed Plummer, a first-round draft pick of the 49ers. Donnie Nickey will move from strong safety to free safety to make way for Mike Doss. The strength will be the line, which will be led by DEs Rodney Bailey and Brent Johnson and DT Ryan Pickett.
Defensive concerns: The concerns may be more mental than physical. Last year, the Buckeyes didn't handle the departure of LB Andy Katzenmoyer and SS Damon Moore well. This year, Diggs, Plummer and FS Gary Berry are gone, leaving new coordinator Jon Tenuta to rebuild half the secondary and find a leader. Most important, the Buckeyes have to toughen up. They got thrown around by Wisconsin in the second half of last year's debacle at Ohio Stadium.
Special teams: In Rambo and Nate Clements, the Buckeyes have reliable kickoff and punt returners, though this is an area that could use tweaking. Dan Stultz hit 75 percent of his field-goal attempts in '99, though there were a few kicks he would like back. The punting was shaky and needs to be addressed.
Head coach: John Cooper needs to bounce back from last year's 6-6 mark—the school's first non-winning record since Coop debuted in Columbus with a 4-6-1 record in 1988—in a big way. He promised fans as much when he said before spring drills that OSU "will be a force again on the national scene and be a legitimate player in the Bowl Championship Series standings." A win over Michigan, which is 9-3-1 against Cooper, would help.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Verge of greatness: *Pickett hasn't missed a start (21 and counting) since making his first as a true freshman against Penn State in 1998.*

Schedule: It's tough. The Buckeyes will get a non-league test when they visit Arizona. Starting September 23, Ohio State hits a critical stretch that features a home game against Penn State, a trip to Wisconsin and a home matchup with Minnesota. OSU also has to go to Purdue and Illinois before closing with Michigan. There's no Northwestern or Indiana.
Bottom line: Cooper says there's no reason a team with such talent should have been .500 last year, and there's no reason to disagree with him. But it also was a team in disarray late in the year. There was a lot of sniping and backbiting. The Buckeyes need to gain cohesiveness and chemistry, in addition to solving their on-field problems, before thinking about a return to a BCS game.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Reggie Germany**	**6-2**	**195**	**Sr.**	Vanness Provitt	6-3	200	Sr.
T	**Tyson Walter**	**6-5**	**295**	**Sr.**	Ivan Douglas	6-6	310	Jr.
G	Mike Gurr	6-7	290	Sr.	Jim Massey	6-5	185	Jr.
C	**LeCharles Bentley**	**6-3**	**290**	**Jr.**	Mike Jacobs	6-1	285	Jr.
G	Tam Hopkins	6-5	305	Jr.	Scott Kuhnhein	6-6	285	So.
T	**Henry Fleming**	**6-7**	**305**	**Sr.**	Adrien Clarke	6-4	342	Fr.
TE	Darnell Sanders	6-6	265	So.	Ben Hartsock	6-4	250	Fr.
WR	**Ken-Yon Rambo**	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**	Chad Cacchio	6-0	190	Jr.
QB	**Steve Bellisari**	**6-3**	**220**	**Jr.**	Craig Krenzel	6-4	215	Fr.
RB	Derek Combs	6-2	197	Sr.	Jonathan Wells	6-1	230	Jr.
FB	**Jamar Martin**	**6-1**	**245**	**Jr.**	*Jesse Kline	6-2	210	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Rodney Bailey**	**6-3**	**270**	**Sr.**	Kenny Peterson	6-4	265	So.
T	**Ryan Pickett**	**6-3**	**290**	**Jr.**	*Tim Anderson	6-4	280	Fr.
T	**Mike Collins**	**6-3**	**290**	**Jr.**	Heath Queen	6-5	275	Jr.
E	**Brent Johnson**	**6-4**	**265**	**Sr.**	Joe Brown	6-6	285	Sr.
OLB	Joe Cooper	6-2	225	Sr.	*Pat O'Neill	6-3	215	Fr.
MLB	**Jason Ott**	**6-4**	**240**	**Jr.**	Fred Pagac	6-1	218	So.
OLB	**Courtland Bullard**	**6-3**	**220**	**Jr.**	Matt Wilhelm	6-4	240	So.
CB	**Nate Clements**	**6-0**	**190**	**Jr.**	*Richard McNutt	5-10	160	Fr.
SS	Mike Doss	6-0	185	So.	Duane Crooks	5-10	185	So.
FS	Donnie Nickey	6-3	203	So.	David Mitchell	6-1	195	Sr.
CB	David Mitchell	6-1	195	Sr.	Derek Ross	6-1	200	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Dan Stultz**	**6-0**	**205**	**Sr.**	*B.J. Sander	6-3	195	Fr.	**P**	**Dan Stultz**	**6-0**	**205**	**Sr.**	*B.J. Sander	6-3	195	Fr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 Michigan State

NATIONAL RANK 24

Coach: Bobby Williams (1-0, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: Morris Watts (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Bill Miller (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 29
Site: East Lansing, Mich.
Stadium: Spartan (turf, 72,027)
Last league title won: 1990 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 7
1999 record: 10-2 (beat Florida in Citrus Bowl). Big Ten: 6-2/T2nd

1999 Results

Oregon, W, 27-20
Eastern Michigan, W, 51-7
at Notre Dame, W, 23-13
at Illinois, W, 27-10
Iowa, W, 49-3
Michigan, W, 34-31
at Purdue, L, 52-28
at Wisconsin, L, 40-10
Ohio State, W, 23-7
at Northwestern, W, 34-0
Penn State, W, 35-28
Florida, W, 37-34

Schedule

S9—Marshall
S16—at Missouri
S23—Notre Dame
S30—Northwestern
O7—at Iowa
O14—Wisconsin
O21—at Michigan
O28—Illinois
N4—at Ohio State
N11—Purdue
N18—at Penn State

Offensive philosophy: The Spartans relied heavily last year on their talent at the skill positions, particularly QB Bill Burke and WRs Plaxico Burress and Gari Scott. To an extent, they'll do the same this year only in reverse. While they wait for receivers to develop, new QB Ryan Van Dyke and superb RB T.J. Duckett will get to know each other. Duckett may be the best big back in the nation.

Offensive stars: Duckett is a converted linebacker who was pressed into duty as a true freshman last year when Michigan State had problems at running back. He and Van Dyke, in a lot of ways, are better than Burke and Lloyd Clemons, last year's running back. Although Charles Rogers, considered by most to be the nation's top prep wideout last year, is expected to be a star, it won't happen as quickly as people might think. In fact, keep an eye on redshirt freshman Josh Lenaburg at receiver. Lavaile Richardson, Herb Haygood and converted RB Shawn Foster also will be counted on. TEs Chris Baker and Ivory McCoy are a fine tandem.

Offensive concerns: What happens if Van Dyke, a junior, and Rogers don't emerge as quickly as possible, leaving defenses to stack the line to stop Duckett? That's a heavy load to place on the line, no matter its level of experience. There are questions about depth at receiver and running back, and Van Dyke, a ballyhooed prospect coming out of high school, has played sparingly his first two seasons.

Defensive philosophy: This was one of the best run-stopping defenses in the country last year, and that figures to be true again despite the losses of E Robaire Smith and T Desmond Thomas. Coaches think Nick Myers, Josh Shaw and Jace Sayler are capable of stopping the run. Michigan State always is blessed with good athletes whom coaches can attack with and turn loose on blitzes and stunts.

Defensive stars: FS Richard Newsome and CB Renaldo Hill are big-time hitters, but the secondary has coverage concerns. LBs Josh Thornhill and T.J. Turner will have to anchor the defense.

Defensive concerns: Teams will look to pick on MSU's secondary in the wake of the loss of SS Aric Morris and CB Amp Campbell, especially if the line can't produce as ferocious a rush. That could be a problem with the loss of LB Julian Peterson. To help combat the losses, Turner is playing middle linebacker, Thornhill and Matt Kropf are flanking Turner. Keep an eye on Drew Young, who could be the key to the unit. A safety in junior college, he has speed to burn.

Special teams: David Schaefer is the new kicker. He has a big legacy to live up to replacing Paul Edinger, who was an NFL draft pick. P Craig Jarrett is a dangerous weapon who ranks among the league's best. With Scott gone, the speedy Haygood will try his hand at fielding punts and kickoffs.

Head coach: In an extremely rare event—especially at Michigan State—a campus came together for a coach. Players, alums, administration and fellow assistant coaches all wanted Bobby Williams, on the staff since 1990, to take over after Nick Saban bolted for LSU.

PAUL NISELY / TSN

Role reversal: *Although Duckett, a star linebacker in high school, was brought to East Lansing to stop people, others are out to stop him now.*

Williams, the associate head coach last year, is a players' coach who understands the concerns of athletes while maintaining discipline. But can he coach? He'll be helped by the fact no assistants left with Saban.

Schedule: The Spartans will learn a lot early with games vs. Marshall, Missouri and Notre Dame. Unlike last year, Michigan State must travel to its three biggest conference rivals: Michigan, Ohio State and Penn State. The Spartans don't play Minnesota or Indiana.

Bottom line: With great skill players and chemistry, the Spartans snuck up on people en route to winning nine games for the first time since '87. There will be no sneaking this year. And Michigan State's task will be complicated by the fact a lot of its talent is unproven. Still, the Spartans should be in line for a good bowl.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Lavaile Richardson	6-2	196	Sr.	*Ziehl Kavanaght	5-11	176	Fr.
T	**Situpe Peko**	**6-4**	**300**	**Sr.**	*Brian Ottney	6-6	290	Fr.
G	**Dave Sucura**	**6-4**	**297**	**Sr.**	*Joe Patrick	6-5	300	Fr.
C	Josh Smith	6-4	281	Jr.	*Brian Ottney	6-6	290	Fr.
G	**Shaun Mason**	**6-5**	**295**	**Sr.**	Paul Harker	6-3	298	So.
T	Matt Bonito	6-6	302	Sr.	Steve Stewart	6-5	290	Fr.
TE	**Chris Baker**	**6-3**	**255**	**Jr.**	**Ivory McCoy**	**6-3**	**235**	**Sr.**
WR	Herb Haygood	6-0	185	Jr.	Shawn Foster	5-11	205	Jr.
QB	Ryan Van Dyke	6-5	220	Jr.	Arron Agler	6-3	245	So.
RB	T.J. Duckett	6-2	255	So.	Little John Flowers	6-0	220	Jr.
FB	Dawan Moss	5-11	257	So.	*Mike Labinjo	6-1	256	Fr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Nick Myers**	**6-3**	**260**	**Jr.**	*Kyle Rasmussen	6-3	258	Fr.
T	Jace Sayler	6-5	300	Sr.	*Joe Tate	6-5	275	Fr.
T	**Josh Shaw**	**6-3**	**280**	**Jr.**	*Joe Brooks	6-3	271	Fr.
E	Jabari Hendricks	6-4	275	Sr.	Dimitry Bernard	6-2	270	Sr.
OLB	Matt Kropf	6-3	240	Jr.	Pierre Wilson	6-3	250	So.
MLB	**T.J. Turner**	**6-2**	**252**	**Sr.**	Matt Dawes	6-1	221	Jr.
OLB	**Josh Thornhill**	**6-3**	**243**	**Jr.**	Drew Young	6-3	222	Sr.
CB	Cedric Henry	5-10	183	Jr.	DeMario Suggs	5-11	192	Sr.
SS	Duron Bryan	6-0	196	Jr.	Thomas Wright	6-1	193	So.
FS	**Richard Newsome**	**5-11**	**193**	**Sr.**	Lorenzo Guess	6-1	190	Jr.
CB	**Renaldo Hill**	**5-11**	**175**	**Sr.**	Broderick Nelson	6-0	170	Jr.

Special Teams

K	David Schaefer	5-10	185	Jr.	*Dan Orner	5-7	170	Fr.	P	**Craig Jarrett**	**6-2**	**206**	**Jr.**	David Schaefer	5-10	185	Jr.

6 Illinois

NATIONAL RANK 26

Coach: Ron Turner (11-23, 3 years; 18-27 overall, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ron Turner (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: Tim Kish (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 41
Site: Champaign, Ill.
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 70,900)
Last league title won: 1990 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 25
1999 record: 8-4 (beat Virginia in Micronpc.com Bowl). Big Ten: 4-4/T6th

1999 Results

Arkansas State, W, 41-3
San Diego State, W, 38-10
at Louisville, W, 41-36
Michigan State, L, 27-10
at Indiana, L, 34-31 OT
Minnesota, L, 37-7
at Michigan, W, 35-29
Penn State, L, 27-7
at Iowa, W, 40-24
at Ohio State, W, 46-20
Penn State, L, 27-7
Northwestern, W, 29-7
Virginia, W, 63-21

Schedule

S2—Middle Tennessee St.
S9—at San Diego State
S16—California
S23—Michigan
S30—at Minnesota
O14—Iowa
O21—at Penn State
O28—at Michigan State
N4—Indiana
N11—Ohio State
N18—at Northwestern

Offensive philosophy: This was one of the most-balanced teams in the league last season, a trend the coaching staff wants to continue. Illinois again will look to run to set up the pass so that defenses can't key on QB Kurt Kittner, who is mastering coach Ron Turner's sophisticated pro-style attack. The Illini produced the most points (388) in school history last season.

Offensive stars: Kittner turned a horrible quarterback situation into something special last year by tossing a school-record 24 touchdowns with only five interceptions. Diminutive-but-tough RB Rocky Harvey will carry the load this year since partner Steve Havard finished his eligibility. Kittner and Harvey will be afforded ample protection from OT Marques Sullivan and G Ray Redziniak, two of five returning starters up front.

Offensive concerns: With 10 starters back, there are few. Still, you have to wonder if Kittner is for real. He was steady *and* spectacular as a sophomore. Kittner has uncanny poise and presence to go along with his physical skills. It also will be vital for Harvey to avoid injury. Should he go down, RB Antoineo Harris will have to start living up to his hype. The receiving corps, headed by Eric McGoey, Brandon Lloyd and Greg Lewis, lacks a big-play force. TE Josh Whitman may become Kittner's security blanket.

Defensive philosophy: Speed kills, or at least that's what coordinator Tim Kish believes. The Illini are extremely fast to the ball and Kish will use that to his advantage—in spots. With few starters back, he has to be careful not to become "blitzed out" early.

Defensive stars: How's this for a team concept? Not one defender was chosen by the coaches or the media to the first or second All-Big Ten teams last year. With the loss of LBs Danny Clark and Eric Guenther and SS Asim Pleas, the closest thing to stars are DE Fred Wakefield and FS Muhammad Abdullah. The secondary will get a big boost from the return of SS Bobby Jackson, who missed last year with a knee injury. Michael Young could be a playmaker at linebacker.

Defensive concerns: Illinois has to improve its pass rush. That's where Wakefield and DTs Jason Eberhart and DT Brandon Moore must help. Youngsters Terrell Washington, Robby Long, Brett Kautter and Karleton Thomas also will play a lot up front for a unit that will rotate frequently to take advantage of its speed and athletic ability. If the pass rush isn't improved, two new starting cornerbacks could be in trouble.

Special teams: With Harvey, Lloyd and Eugene Wilson, the Illini should have an able-bodied return game. P Steve Fitts ranks among the Big Ten's best. He also may be the replacement for departed K Neil Rackers, an NFL draft choice.

Head coach: Turner is entering his fourth year with a new contract and new commitments from the university. He promised results and delivered after going 0-11 and 3-8 his first two seasons. Last season's highlights were victories at Michigan and Ohio State, the first time a team had won at each site in the same season since 1951.

PAUL NISELY / TSN

Old reliable: *Young, coming off his best season at Illinois, will be a familiar face in a linebacking corps that will have two new starters.*

Schedule: As optimistic as the players may be, this probably isn't the year the Illini will win their first Big Ten championship since 1983. Though Michigan and Ohio State visit Champaign and the schedule does not include Wisconsin and Purdue, Illinois still must travel to Minnesota, Penn State and Michigan State. It should be pointed out, however, that Illinois was 5-1 on the road last season.

Bottom line: The expectations are high and the talk is big after Illinois' 8-4 season, which ended with a resounding win over Virginia in the Micronpc.com Bowl. If Kittner is for real, the defense develops and the Illini repeat their plus-13 turnover differential of 1999, they could be the surprise team in the Big Ten and claim a New Year's Day bowl.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Brandon Lloyd**	**6-2**	**176**	**So.**	Greg Lewis	6-0	180	So.
T	**Marques Sullivan**	**6-5**	**315**	**Sr.**	*Sean Bubin	6-7	310	Fr.
G	**Jay Kulaga**	**6-5**	**305**	**Jr.**	David Diehl	6-5	295	So.
C	**Luke Butkus**	**6-4**	**285**	**Jr.**	James Brown	6-5	275	So.
G	**Ray Redziniak**	**6-3**	**290**	**Sr.**	*Aaron Hodges	6-5	273	Fr.
T	**Tony Pashos**	**6-6**	**310**	**So.**	Dan Cutter	6-7	310	Jr.
TE	**Josh Whitman**	**6-4**	**244**	**Sr.**	Brian Hodges	6-4	255	Jr.
WR	*Eric McGoey	6-3	191	Fr.	Aaron Moorehead	6-3	192	So.
QB	**Kurt Kittner**	**6-3**	**205**	**Jr.**	Walter Young	6-5	210	So.
RB	**Rocky Harvey**	**5-9**	**175**	**Jr.**	Antoineo Harris	6-1	220	So.
FB	Jameel Cook	6-0	220	Jr.	*Carey Davis	6-0	233	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Karleton Thomas	6-5	276	Sr.	Terrell Washington	6-4	230	Sr.
T	**Brandon Moore**	**6-3**	**280**	**Jr.**	Brett Kautter	6-3	260	So.
T	**Jason Eberhart**	**6-3**	**260**	**Sr.**	Karleton Thomas	6-5	276	Sr.
E	**Fred Wakefield**	**6-7**	**265**	**Sr.**	Robby Long	6-3	255	Jr.
OLB	Mon Long	6-2	210	Sr.	Jerry Schumacher	6-3	219	So.
MLB	Robert Franklin	6-2	235	Sr.	Marcus Hood	6-2	233	Sr.
OLB	**Mike Young**	**6-2**	**225**	**Sr.**	Eric Garrett	6-2	235	Sr.
CB	Trayvon Waller	6-3	166	Sr.	Anthony Hurd	5-10	180	Jr.
SS	Bobby Jackson	6-1	210	Jr.	Bobie Singleton	6-1	200	Jr.
FS	**M. Abdullah**	**6-1**	**195**	**Jr.**	Marc Jackson	6-1	195	So.
CB	Eugene Wilson	6-0	176	So.	Anthony Hurd	5-10	180	Jr.

Special Teams

K	Steve Fitts	6-0	180	Jr.
P	Steve Fitts	6-0	180	Jr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

7 Penn State

NATIONAL RANK 28

Coach: Joe Paterno (317-83-3, 34 years)
Offensive coordinator: Fran Ganter (17th season)
Defensive coordinator: Tom Bradley (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 15
Lettermen lost: 29
Lettermen returning: 32
Site: State College, Pa.
Stadium: Beaver (grass, 93,967)
Last league title won: 1994
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1988
1999 TSN rank: 13
1999 record: 10-3 (beat Texas A&M in Alamo Bowl). Big Ten: 5-3/T4th

1999 Results

Arizona, W, 41-7
Akron, W, 70-24
Pittsburgh, W, 20-17
at Miami (Fla.), W, 27-23
Indiana, W, 45-24
at Iowa, W, 31-7
Ohio State, W, 23-10
at Purdue, W, 31-25
at Illinois, W, 27-7
Minnesota, L, 24-23
Michigan, L, 31-27
at Michigan St., L, 35-28
Texas A&M, W, 24-0

Schedule

A27—USC*
S2—Toledo
S9—Louisiana Tech
S16—at Pittsburgh
S23—at Ohio State
S30—Purdue
O7—at Minnesota
O21—Illinois
O28—at Indiana
N4—Iowa
N11—at Michigan
N18—Michigan State
*at East Rutherford, N.J.

Offensive philosophy: Coach Joe Paterno always has been flexible enough to play to his strength, whether it be a quality passer or a superb runner. But with a suspect defense this season, the Nittany Lions will need to chew some clock. Look for a cache of talented running backs to get the ball early in the season until one emerges—and until a quarterback begins to mesh with receivers like Bryant Johnson, Eddie Drummond and Sam Crenshaw now that Chafie Fields is gone.

Offensive stars: RB Eric McCoo led the team in rushing in '99, but he may play more in the slot. Coaches are high on RB Larry Johnson. FB Mike Cerimele is a tough blocker who also can run effectively. TE Tony Stewart could become a star. T Kareem McKenzie, helped up front by G Jordan Caruso, already is one.

Offensive concerns: After sharing the job with Kevin Thompson the last two years, Rashard Casey looked to be the man at quarterback. But an offseason arrest for attacking a police officer clouds his future. If Casey can't play, Matt Senneca will be the man. He has limited mobility and an OK arm. Penn State had the fourth-best rushing offense and passing attack in the conference last year. But, at times, it seemed as if the Lions did it with smoke and mirrors. Sure, the backfield is loaded with veterans and three line starters are back, but there doesn't seem to be a go-to guy.

Defensive philosophy: After 23 seasons as coordinator (32 on the PSU staff), Jerry Sandusky has retired. Tom Bradley, entering his 22nd season on the staff, will take over and continue to coach the secondary. Since Paterno hired from within, expect the Lions to continue to play aggressive, attacking defense.

Defensive stars: "(End) Justin Kurpeikis is going to be an outstanding football player. I hate to talk that way, (but) if he stays healthy, he'll be one of the better players in the country." Paterno isn't one for hyperbole, so when he says something like that, you take notice. DT Jimmy Kennedy also may dominate.

Defensive concerns: DE Courtney Brown? Gone. LB LaVar Arrington? Gone. LB Brandon Short, LB Mac Morrison, CB David Macklin, S Derek Fox? Gone, gone, gone, gone. In all, nine starters are gone, leaving Kurpeikis and Kennedy to be the foundation. Though lots of talent has departed, Penn State is loaded with potential studs such as SS James Boyd; LBs Shamar Finney, Eric Sturdifen, Aaron Gatten and Ron Graham; CB Bhawoh Jue; and FS Titcus Pettigrew. Also, keep an eye on speedy Bruce Branch, who was switched from receiver to cornerback.

Special teams: Branch, who ran back two punts for touchdowns last year, and Watson are capable return men. Penn State needs K Ryan Primanti and P David Royer to step in for Travis Forney and Pat Pidgeon and produce.

Head coach: Paterno enters his 35th season as coach with no less enthusiasm than when he assumed command in 1966. Sandusky's retirement notwithstanding, Paterno has succeeded to a great degree because he has been able to retain his assistants. He needs seven wins to pass Bear Bryant as the all-time winningest Division I-A coach.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

All-around game: *McCoo's rushing totals were down a bit in '99, but his receiving numbers were way up, and his blocking was better, too.*

Schedule: Paterno didn't want to open the season again with a "preseason" game but bowed to the wishes of his players, who voted to play Southern California in the Kickoff Classic. That means Penn State, which will play seven teams that had winning records in '99, will need seven wins to be bowl eligible in its rebuilding year. The Big Ten season opens with a bang, too, as Penn State travels to Ohio State, hosts Purdue, goes to Minnesota and hosts Illinois. The season ends with a trip to Michigan and a visit from Michigan State.

Bottom line: Unlike last year, there's no talk of a national championship. If Casey can't play, the offense will be very limited. To go bowling, Senneca must stay healthy and can't lose games—and the ground game and defense must dominate.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Eddie Drummond**	**5-9**	**182**	**Jr.**	Rod Perry	5-10	188	Jr.
T	**Kareem McKenzie**	**6-7**	**321**	**Sr.**	Gus Felder	6-5	317	Jr.
G	**Jordan Caruso**	**6-4**	**300**	**Sr.**	Joe Hartings	6-4	270	Jr.
C	**Francis Spano**	**6-1**	**286**	**Sr.**	Joe Iorio	6-3	292	So.
G	Josh Mitchell	6-4	289	Jr.	Tyler Lenda	6-3	264	So.
T	Matt Schmitt	6-4	293	So.	Imani Bell	6-4	312	Sr.
TE	**Tony Stewart**	**6-5**	**272**	**Sr.**	John Gilmore	6-4	265	Jr.
WR	Sam Crenshaw	6-2	199	Sr.	Bryant Johnson	6-2	196	So.
QB	Matt Senneca	6-3	226	So.	*Hunter Cross	6-1	210	Fr.
RB	**Eric McCoo**	**5-10**	**208**	**Jr.**	Omar Easy	6-1	249	Jr.
FB	**Mike Cerimele**	**5-10**	**237**	**Sr.**	R.J. Luke	6-3	243	Jr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Bob Jones	6-5	261	Jr.	Michael Haynes	6-3	254	So.
T	Anthony Adams	6-0	276	So.	Tim Falls	6-3	272	So.
T	**Jimmy Kennedy**	**6-5**	**329**	**So.**	T.J. Gholston	6-3	285	So.
E	**Justin Kurpeikis**	**6-4**	**255**	**Sr.**	Dave Jens	6-1	242	So.
OLB	Eric Sturdifen	6-2	232	Sr.	*Horace Dodd	6-1	210	Fr.
MLB	Brandon Steele	5-11	247	Sr.	Ron Graham	6-2	257	Jr.
OLB	Aaron Gatten	6-1	222	Sr.	Shamar Finney	6-2	236	Jr.
CB	Bruce Branch	5-11	190	Jr.	Mike Johnson	6-0	183	So.
SS	Shawn Mayer	6-0	195	So.	**James Boyd**	**6-0**	**206**	**Sr.**
FS	Titcus Pettigrew	6-0	213	Sr.	Bryan Scott	6-2	212	So.
CB	Bhawoh Jue	6-1	196	Sr.	*Yaacov Yisreal	5-11	191	Fr.

Special Teams

K	Ryan Primanti	5-11	206	Sr.	**P**	David Royer	6-3	210	So.

More on Penn State at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/pennstate/ AOL keyword: TSN

8 Minnesota

NATIONAL RANK 38

Coach: Glen Mason (16-19, 3 years; 75-83 overall, 14 years)
Offensive coordinator: Tony Petersen and Mitch Browning (1st seasons)
Defensive coordinator: David Gibbs (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 37
Site: Minneapolis, Minn.
Stadium: Metrodome (turf, 63,669)
Last league title won: 1967 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 23
1999 record: 8-4 (lost to Oregon in Sun Bowl). Big Ten: 5-3/T4th

1999 Results

Ohio, W, 33-7
Louisiana-Monroe, W, 35-0
Illinois State, W, 55-7
at Northwestern, W, 33-14
Wisconsin, L, 20-17
at Illinois, W, 37-7
Ohio State, L, 20-17
Purdue, L, 33-28
at Penn State, W, 24-23
Indiana, W, 44-20
at Iowa, W, 25-21
Oregon, L, 24-20

Schedule

S2—Louisiana-Monroe
S9—Ohio
S16—at Baylor
S23—at Purdue
S30—Illinois
O7—Penn State
O14—at Ohio State
O21—at Indiana
O28—Northwestern
N4—at Wisconsin
N18—Iowa

Offensive philosophy: The success the Golden Gophers enjoyed last year was in part because of an attack that broke 18 individual and team records. Before you start thinking "Purdue North," remember this is a smash-mouth team that likes to control the ball with the run. Key cogs at quarterback (Billy Cockerham) and tailback (Thomas Hamner) are gone. But redshirt freshman QB Asad Abdul-Khaliq and redshirt freshman RB Thomas Tapeh could be as good, or better, than their predecessors.

Offensive stars: Tapeh was one of the top recruits in the country two seasons ago but was sidelined by academics. He'll work behind a terrific line headed by Ben Hamilton, one of the finest centers in the nation. Ron Johnson, who had a team-high 43 catches a year ago, leads a solid group of receivers. And don't forget about senior QB Andy Persby, who sat out spring ball to play baseball but will battle Abdul-Khaliq for the starting job.

Offensive concerns: A drop-off at quarterback is to be expected. Still, co-coordinators Tony Petersen and Mitch Browning will look to work the same magic with the versatile Abdul-Khaliq that the staff got from Cockerham. As good as the burly Tapeh is projected to be, he has to overcome a tendency to be sidelined by injuries.

Defensive philosophy: The Golden Gophers, who like to gamble, are dedicated to stopping the run, and this year should be no different. Minnesota will try to funnel everything toward its talented linebacking and secondary corps. Losing Thorpe Award winner SS Tyrone Carter, who was a tackling fiend, hurts. Look for the Gophers to put pressure on quarterbacks with blitzes and stunts. The year before coach Glen Mason and coordinator David Gibbs arrived, Minnesota had eight sacks. It has averaged 41.3 since.

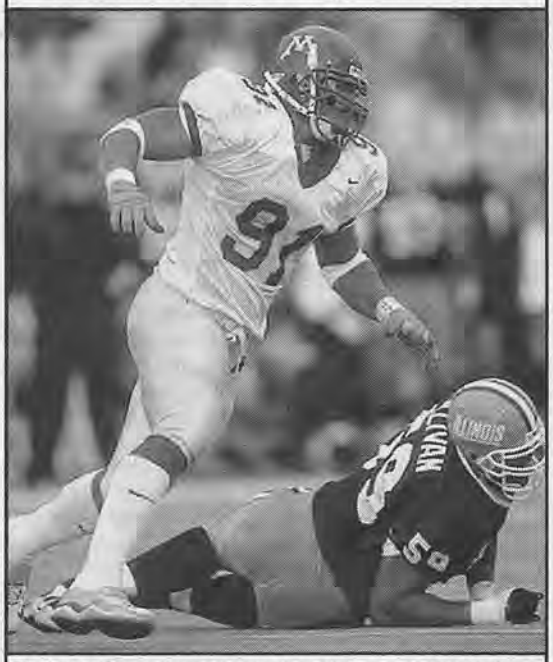
Defensive stars: There are plenty of stars with eight starters returning. E Karon Riley, who led the Big Ten with 16 sacks last season, is an All-American-type. Riley will have help from LB Ben Mezera and T John Schlecht and LB Sean Hoffman. Willie Middlebrooks will be one of the Big Ten's best corners.

Defensive concerns: A defense that gambles can get burned. Still, there are few problems aside from replacing Carter. Clorenzo Griffin, a nickel back and special-teams player last season, will take a shot at it. Redshirt freshmen Paul Nixon and Eli Ward will compete with Griffin.

Special teams: The Gophers are set at kicker with Dan Nystrom, a Groza Award candidate. It was Nystrom who ruined Penn State's bid for perfection at Happy Valley last year with a last-second, 32-yard field goal. P Ryan Rindels is gone, leaving those duties to *Parade* All-American Preston Gruening. Antoine Henderson and Tellis Redmon will handle returns.

Head coach: Mason won at Kent, turned around Kansas and again is working his magic at Minnesota. Mason, who flirted with the Michigan State job, is one of the league's most savvy bosses who knows how to get the most out of his players and assistants.

Schedule: Once again, the non-league schedule is soft.



PAUL NISELY / TSN

First-year force: *Riley, a transfer from SMU, made his first Big Ten season memorable by leading the league in sacks (16).*

The Gophers should start 3-0 with Louisiana-Monroe, Ohio and Baylor on tap. But it opens Big Ten play with Purdue, Illinois, Penn State and Ohio State. The Gophers need to split those games and then take advantage of a generous last month of the season, which includes just one toughie: at Wisconsin.

Bottom line: Despite all of the veteran talent, it will be difficult to duplicate the success of last season, which featured the school's first bowl trip since 1986. Mason says the hardest part for any coach is not getting to where he wants to be but staying there. If the Gophers, who haven't been to bowls in consecutive seasons since 1985 and '86, can escape that rugged four-game start to the Big Ten, another postseason trip may be possible.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Ron Johnson**	**6-3**	**212**	**Jr.**	Jermaine Mays	6-0	190	So.
T	Jake Kuppe	6-7	357	So.	*Matt McIntosh	6-8	275	Fr.
G	**Derek Burns**	**6-5**	**271**	**Jr.**	*Joe Quinn	6-5	290	Fr.
C	**Ben Hamilton**	**6-5**	**271**	**Sr.**	Akeem Akinwale	6-3	274	So.
G	Ryan Thorman	6-5	287	Jr.	*Dan Gitlewski	6-6	255	Fr.
T	Erik Larson	6-6	290	Sr.	*Jeremiah Carter	6-6	267	Fr.
TE	Zach Vevea	6-6	258	Jr.	Scooter Baugus	6-7	239	Fr.
WR	Antoine Henderson	5-7	163	Jr.	Ryan Keller	6-2	200	Jr.
QB	*Asad Abdul-Khaliq	6-2	197	Fr.	Andy Persby	6-3	228	Jr.
RB	Tellis Redmon	6-0	192	So.	*Renato Fitzpatrick	6-0	203	Fr.
WR	Elvin Jones	6-4	210	Jr.	Jack Brewer	6-1	189	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Greg White	6-2	265	Jr.	Mike Cernoch	6-6	265	Jr.
T	Matt Anderle	6-6	303	Jr.	*Dave Sykora	6-6	295	Fr.
T	**John Schlecht**	**6-1**	**275**	**Sr.**	*Maurice White	6-5	260	Fr.
E	**Karon Riley**	**6-4**	**247**	**Sr.**	*Dan Kwapinski	6-5	242	Fr.
OLB	Jimmy Henry	6-1	192	Jr.	*DaVonta Bell	6-1	225	Fr.
MLB	**Sean Hoffman**	**6-3**	**244**	**Sr.**	Astein Osei	6-2	230	Jr..
OLB	**Ben Mezera**	**6-4**	**237**	**Sr.**	*Tony Dupree	6-2	220	Fr.
CB	Trevis Graham	5-10	183	Sr.	*Mike Lehan	6-1	190	Fr.
SS	Clorenzo Griffin	5-10	183	Sr.	*Eli Ward	6-1	190	Fr.
FS	**Delvin Jones**	**6-0**	**184**	**Jr.**	*Eric Lee	5-11	183	Fr.
CB	**Willie Middlebrooks**	**6-2**	**194**	**Jr.**	Andre Brown	5-9	180	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Dan Nystrom**	**5-11**	**205**	**So.**	Mike Albert	5-10	165	So.	**P**	Preston Gruening	5-10	183	So.	*Ben Utecht	6-6	220	Fr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

9 Indiana

NATIONAL RANK 70

Coach: Cam Cameron (10-23, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Cam Cameron (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: James Bell (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 7
Site: Bloomington, Ind.
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 52,354)
Last league title won: 1967 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1993
1999 TSN rank: 70
1999 record: 4-7. Big Ten: 3-5/T8th

1999 Results

Ball State, W, 21-9
North Carolina, L, 42-30
Kentucky, L, 44-35
at Penn State, L, 45-24
Illinois, W, 34-31
Northwestern, W, 34-17
at Wisconsin, L, 59-0
at Iowa, W, 38-31
Michigan, L, 34-31
at Minnesota, L, 44-20
Purdue, L, 30-24

Schedule

S9—North Carolina State
S16—at Kentucky
S23—Cincinnati
S30—Iowa
O7—at Northwestern
O14—at Michigan
O21—Minnesota
O28—Penn State
N4—at Illinois
N11—Wisconsin
N18—at Purdue

Offensive philosophy: Controlled chaos. The Hoosiers have developed into a potent unit that can hurt foes with precision or with exciting, free-lancing players when all else breaks down. Indiana will run the option, sprint out, line up in an I-formation or drop back.

Offensive stars: There are a bunch, and it starts with long-shot Heisman candidate QB Antwaan Randle El. Blessed with frightening quickness and an uncanny knack for escaping trouble, Randle El has improved his passing so that teams no longer can stack the line. RB Levron Williams, a good pass catcher, helps in that respect, too. He'll be escorted by the tough fullback duo of De'Wayne Hogan and Jeremi Johnson. WR Versie Gaddis is back for an attack that returns 98 percent of its rushing yards, 100 percent of its passing yards and 99.7 percent of its receiving yards and averaged 405 yards per game.

Offensive concerns: Randle El can't do it himself, though at times last year it looked like he was flying solo. The Hoosiers need to upgrade a receiving corps that was plagued by too many dropped balls. Improvement is needed from Gaddis, Jerry Dorsey, L.J. Parker and Henry Frazier, a junior college import. There's trepidation about the line because three starters graduated. Indiana is looking to junior college stud T Antoine Grant and Craig Osika, who was moved from tight end to center, for immediate help. One thing the Hoosiers don't have to worry about is backup quarterback, where Tommy Jones is poised to step in if Randle El is injured. Hmmmm. Maybe Jones will take over and Randle El will become another offensive option. It may happen on occasion.

Defensive philosophy: Some might wonder if the Hoosiers had a philosophy last year after they ranked last in the conference in points allowed (35.1) and second-to-last in yardage (430 yards per game). That's why coach Cam Cameron hired coordinator James Bell from Wake Forest to implement a more aggressive scheme. Several players changed from offense to defense, so it might take a while for things to click.

Defensive stars: FS Greg Yeldell is the leader. He had five interceptions two seasons ago and needs to return to form if the Hoosiers are to cut down on passing yards. LB Justin Smith also has to make plays. Fellow LB Herman Fowler may become special.

Defensive concerns: The loss of E Adewale Ogunleye, who missed most of last season because of a knee injury, is critical because he represented what little pass rush the Hoosiers generated. IU also lost FS Mike McGrath and CB Curtis Randle El to graduation. SS Joe Gonzalez will help, as will Sean Nelson and A.C. Myler up front.

Special teams: K Andy Payne didn't get many chances last year, but he's as solid as they come. The Hoosiers will miss P Drew Hagan, one of the Big Ten's best in 1999. Return man Derin Graham is a dangerous weapon capable of going all the way.

Head coach: It's Year Four for Cameron, who's still looking for his first bowl. He has to be antsy because he was hired the same year as coaches at Purdue, Minnesota and Illinois, and they have delivered post-season trips. Still, Cameron is one of the brightest minds in the Big Ten. He's an innovative force who isn't afraid to gamble and scheme in an attempt to maximize his talent.

PAUL INSELY / TSN

The franchise: *Randle El reached 3,000 yards passing and 1,500 yards rushing faster than any player in college football history.*

Schedule: A good start is imperative for Indiana because the Big Ten schedule is murderous. After opening the conference with Iowa and Northwestern, the Hoosiers get Michigan, Minnesota, Penn State, Illinois, Wisconsin and Purdue—all bowl teams last season—in the final six weeks.

Bottom line: Don't expect the program's first bowl since '93. The schedule is too difficult, the offensive line is too unproven and there are too many questions on defense. Even a one-game improvement would be an achievement.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Jerry Dorsey**	**6-1**	**177**	**Sr.**	Henry Frazier	6-0	171	Jr.
T	A.C. Myler	6-4	317	So.	Trevor Abbs	6-6	295	So.
G	**Enoch DeMar**	**6-4**	**310**	**So.**	Matt Genasci	6-5	285	Jr.
C	Craig Osika	6-5	280	Jr.	*Sinone Ohuafi	6-2	295	Fr.
G	**Jamarkus Gorman**	**6-4**	**305**	**Jr.**	*Anthony Oakley	6-2	282	Fr.
T	Brett Taylor	6-8	320	So.	Antoine Grant	6-3	330	Jr.
TE	**Bobby Brandt**	6-7	275	So.	*Ken Gipson	6-7	262	Fr.
WR	**Versie Gaddis**	**5-10**	**190**	**Sr.**	Derin Graham	5-9	182	Jr.
QB	**Antwaan Randle El**	**5-10**	**191**	**Jr.**	Tommy Jones	6-3	240	So.
RB	**Levron Williams**	**6-3**	**215**	**Jr.**	Brian Lewis	5-7	203	Fr.
FB	**De'Wayne Hogan**	**5-11**	**220**	**Sr.**	Jeremi Johnson	5-11	275	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Kemp Rasmussen**	**6-3**	**265**	**Jr.**	Stephen Anthony	6-3	267	So.
T	A.C. Myler	6-4	317	So.	*Colin Christopher	6-1	271	Fr.
T	**Paul Mandina**	**6-3**	**290**	**Sr.**	Kris Dielman	6-4	272	So.
E	Sean Nelson	6-4	272	So.	Dominique Smith	6-3	290	Jr.
OLB	**Justin Smith**	**6-0**	**213**	**Jr.**	Brandon Rodgers	6-2	234	Jr.
MLB	**Joslin Goodman**	**6-4**	**220**	**Sr.**	Herman Fowler	6-1	255	So.
OLB	**Devin Schaffer**	**6-0**	**241**	**Jr.**	*Robert Brown	6-1	233	Fr.
CB	O.J. Spencer	5-11	195	Sr.	Michael Hanley	5-11	178	Sr.
SS	Joe Gonzalez	6-0	200	So.	Johnny Anderson	5-10	188	Sr.
FS	**Greg Yeldell**	**5-10**	**190**	**Jr.**	Ron Bethel	6-3	210	So.
CB	**Sharrod Wallace**	**5-9**	**183**	**Jr.**	**Maurice Tucker**	**5-11**	**195**	**Jr.**

Special Teams

K	**Andy Payne**	**5-10**	**190**	**Sr.**
P	**Andy Payne**	**5-10**	**190**	**Sr.**

10 Iowa

NATIONAL RANK 71

Coach: Kirk Ferentz (1-10, 1 year; 13-31 overall, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ken O'Keefe (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Norm Parker (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 38
Site: Iowa City, Iowa
Stadium: Kinnick (grass, 70,397).
Last league title won: 1990 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 104
1999 record: 1-10. Big Ten: 0-8/11th

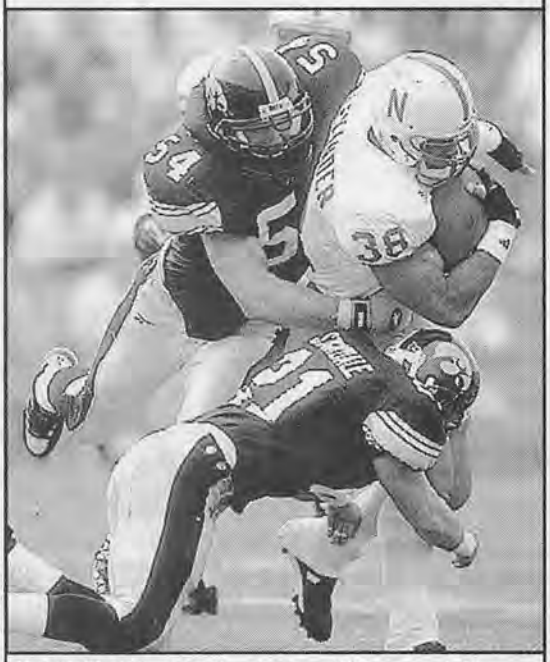
1999 Results

Nebraska, L, 42-7
at Iowa State, L, 17-10
Northern Illinois, W, 24-0
at Michigan St., L, 49-3
Penn State, L, 31-7
at Northwestern, L, 23-21
Indiana, L, 38-31
at Ohio State, L, 41-11
Illinois, L, 40-24
at Wisconsin, L, 41-3
Minnesota, L, 25-21

Schedule

A26—Kansas State*
S9—Western Michigan
S16—Iowa State
S23—at Nebraska
S30—at Indiana
O7—Michigan State
O14—at Illinois
O21—Ohio State
O28—Wisconsin
N4—at Penn State
N11—Northwestern
N20—at Minnesota
*at Kansas City, Mo.

Offensive philosophy: Things are changing in coach Kirk Ferentz's second year. After getting a long look at what he had during a 1-10 finish last season, Ferentz is shaking things up. The Hawkeyes will use a three-receiver set with the return of wideout Kahlil Hill, who was suspended last season. But there still will be an emphasis on the running game. Fullbacks, who in the past primarily were pass catchers, will become more involved. Jeremy Allen looks like a developing force at the spot.
Offensive stars: RB Ladell Betts heads a group of backs that is deep. Coaches would like him to carry the ball 25 times a game after he showed flashes last season as a sophomore. The return of Hill, along with Kevin Kasper, Ryan Barton and Chris Oliver, means the receiving corps has potential.
Offensive concerns: The line was atrocious last season. A major goal of the spring was to make the crew more physical. G Bruce Nelson and T Alonzo Cunningham are promising. The return of T Ben Sobieski, who missed last year with a shoulder injury, will be a boon. There still are questions at quarterback. Senior Scott Mullen, who started the last five games of 1999, has a strong arm and decent mobility. Kyle McCann, a junior who started seven times the past two seasons, also is in the picture. Redshirt freshman Jon Beutjer may end up being the best of the bunch once he matures.
Defensive philosophy: Remember the film *Get Shorty?* Iowa's theme this season is "Get the Quarterback." The Hawkeyes are shuffling personnel, such as moving LB Aaron Kampman to end—Howard Hodges made a similar switch—in an effort to put more pressure on the quarterback. Iowa ranked last in the Big Ten in sacks last year with 18.
Defensive stars: Kampman is undersized, but he's quick and will give offensive linemen a workout. The same goes for E Anthony Herron. Keep an eye on Tim Dodge, who was moved to cornerback from receiver in an effort to inject speed into the secondary. LB LeVar Woods must make plays.
Defensive concerns: The loss of CB Tarig Holman and S Matt Bowen, the team's top tackler, will hurt a secondary that figures to get tested often. The unit, which will be led by SS Shane Hall, desperately needs the line to apply consistent pressure.
Special teams: Coming out of spring, Ferentz wasn't happy with his kicking game. P Jason Baker, who averaged 42.3 yards per kick, returns, but the powerful leg of K Tim Douglas is gone. In steps Greg McLaughlin for a team that is looking for improved accuracy on field goals and better depth on kickoffs. The reinstatement of Hill will add an element of danger to the return game. He ran back a kickoff and two punts for touchdowns in '98.
Head coach: Ferentz chokes on the word "rebuilding." He'd rather talk about returning the program to its glory days. The team should be improved after having worked a season with Ferentz, who shook up his staff. Offensive coordinator Ken O'Keefe takes over as quarterback coach from departed Chuck Long. Reese Morgan was hired to mentor tight ends and oversee recruiting. Lester Erb is the new receivers coach.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Big question: *It will be interesting to see if Kampman, a tackling machine, can be as effective at end as he was at linebacker.*

Schedule: Last year's schedule was rated fourth-toughest in the nation, and this one appears every bit as frightful. Iowa's non-conference menu features games with Big 12 powers Kansas State and Nebraska. And there's the annual tiff with surging Iowa State. The Big Ten schedule includes bowl teams Michigan State, Illinois, Wisconsin, Penn State and Minnesota. At least Iowa doesn't have to play Michigan and Purdue.
Bottom line: Don't expect a winning season, but the forecast isn't all gloom-and-doom for a team whose offense ranked 10th and defense 11th in the Big Ten. The club lost three games on the last play in '99. Improved speed should help a squad that allowed 23 rushes, 42 passes and 14 returns of at least 20 yards last season. Still, there's work to be done.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kahlil Hill	6-3	185	Jr.	Ryan Barton	6-1	184	Sr.
T	**Alonzo Cunningham**	**6-4**	**305**	**Jr.**	Ben Sobieski	6-5	305	Jr.
G	**Bruce Nelson**	**6-4**	**275**	**So.**	Pete Traynor	6-3	276	So.
C	**Eric Steinbach**	**6-7**	**255**	**So.**	A.J. Blazek	6-2	284	Sr.
G	**B.J. Van Briesen**	**6-3**	**300**	**So.**	Andy Lightfoot	6-6	284	So.
T	David Porter	6-7	305	Jr.	*Sam Aiello	6-5	310	Fr.
TE	*Robert Gallery	6-7	275	Fr.	Kyle Trippeer	6-4	255	Sr.
WR	**Kevin Kasper**	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**	Chris Oliver	6-2	205	Jr.
QB	**Scott Mullen**	**6-6**	**220**	**Sr.**	Kyle McCann	6-5	210	Jr.
RB	**Ladell Betts**	**5-11**	**210**	**Jr.**	Robbie Crockett	6-0	207	Jr.
FB	Jeremy Allen	6-1	240	Jr.	Henry Pollio	6-2	245	Sr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Anthony Herron**	**6-5**	**280**	**Sr.**	*Howard Hodges	6-2	225	Fr.
T	Colin Cole	6-2	300	So.	*Kory Borchers	6-6	280	Fr.
T	**Jerry Montgomery**	**6-3**	**300**	**Jr.**	*Jared Clauss	6-5	280	Fr.
E	**Aaron Kampman**	**6-4**	**260**	**Jr.**	Cody O'Hare	6-4	275	Jr.
OLB	**LeVar Woods**	**6-3**	**245**	**Sr.**	Jon Omatola	6-4	230	So.
MLB	Mike Dolezal	6-3	240	Jr.	Roger Meyer	6-3	255	Jr.
OLB	**Fred Barr**	**6-2**	**230**	**So.**	Derrick Davison	6-2	230	Sr.
CB	Cameron Smith	5-11	180	Sr.	Tim Dodge	5-10	180	Jr.
SS	Ryan Hansen	6-1	195	Sr.	**Shane Hall**	**5-11**	**190**	**Jr.**
FS	D.J. Johnson	5-10	185	Jr.	Robbertto Rickards	5-9	190	Sr.
CB	Mikkel Brown	5-10	190	Jr.	Matt Stockdale	5-10	190	Jr.

Special Teams

K	Greg McLaughlin	5-10	190	Sr.	**P**	**Jason Baker**	**6-1**	**195**	**Sr.**

11 Northwestern

NATIONAL RANK 94

Coach: Randy Walker (3-8, 1 year; 62-43-5 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Kevin Wilson (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Jerry Brown (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple I
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 6.
Lettermen returning: 41
Site: Evanston. Ill.
Stadium: Ryan Field (grass, 47,130)
Last league title won: 1996 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 95
1999 record: 3-8. Big Ten: 1-7/10th

1999 Results

Miami (Ohio), L, 28-3
TCU, W, 17-7
at Duke, W, 15-12 OT
at Purdue, L, 31-23
Minnesota, L, 33-14
at Indiana, L, 34-17
Iowa, W, 23-21
Wisconsin, L, 35-19
at Michigan, L, 37-3
Michigan State, L, 34-0
at Illinois, L, 29-7

Schedule

A31—Northern Illinois
S9—Duke
S16—at TCU
S23—at Wisconsin
S30—at Michigan State
O7—Indiana
O14—Purdue
O28—at Minnesota
N4—Michigan
N11—at Iowa
N18—Illinois

Offensive philosophy: There will be no big secrets with this offense. The Wildcats want to utilize RB Damien Anderson as much as they can. With four starters returning to the line, not only will Anderson have a good escort, but the veteran big guys will take pressure off QB Zak Kustok.

Offensive stars: Hard to believe Anderson was able to rush for 1,128 yards in 1999, especially considering his line needed the season to jell, there was an unstable quarterback situation and the best receivers spent more time on the sideline than the cheerleaders. It makes you wonder what Anderson will do with a healthy, experienced line and receiving corps, along with a quarterback who appears to be emerging. Kustok, a Notre Dame transfer who got a late start to his '99 season but ended up with the starting job, will have WR Teddy Johnson as his primary target. But keep an eye on Kunle Patrick, who's being moved back to receiver from safety, and the return of WRs Sam Simmons and Jon Schweighardt from injuries.

Offensive concerns: Unheralded and unappreciated TE Jay Tant is no longer around to serve as a safety valve. But coach Randy Walker's biggest concern is Kustok, who has to show he has mastered the system and the ability to stretch defenses with his passing ability. If the Wildcats don't have the threat of the pass, it's going to be a long year for Anderson and the offense.

Defensive philosophy: Northwestern must do a better job of defending the run after ranking 92nd in the nation (187.6 yards per game). The secondary was adequate. This team never is loaded with athletic ability, so it has to gamble to make things happen. Of course, when you blitz and stunt, you make yourself vulnerable to the big play.

Defensive stars: LBs Kevin Bentley, Napoleon Harris and Billy Silva, an emerging talent, are among the Big Ten's best. The presence of DE Dwayne Missouri and the move of Conrad Emmerich from linebacker to end help give Northwestern a strong front seven. CB Harold Blackmon is underrated.

Defensive concerns: There's a reason Bentley and Harris ranked first and third in tackles last year in the conference: Too many runners got past the line. Northwestern also has to put more pressure on the quarterback, as it registered only 19 sacks to rank 10th in the conference. It also must get more aggressive and take more chances, which may lead to more turnovers. Last year, Northwestern ranked 97th in the nation in turnover differential (minus-7).

Special teams: Sean Wieber will push J.J. Standring, who played baseball in the spring, for the punting job. Walker is looking for continued development from K Tim Long. With Simmons recovering from his fractured clavicle, RB Kevin Lawrence may audition as a return man.

Head coach: Walker is all business and has made it clear to his players that all positions are up for grabs. But he also has to get the players to buy into the system, particularly one that sacrifices immediate success for long-term gains. That's what Walker did at Miami (Ohio), and that's what he's trying to do in Evanston.

NORTHWESTERN

A little help, please: *It's good that Harris (above) is such an able tackler. It's bad that he and sidekick Bentley have to make so many.*

Schedule: The Wildcats have four winnable games: Northern Illinois and Duke in the non-conference schedule and Indiana and Iowa in league play. For the Wildcats to secure their first postseason bid in three years, they'll likely have to win at TCU and either at Minnesota or home against Illinois. The problem is, each of those schools is in the midst of a revival.

Bottom line: Walker has the Wildcats following the right course in the wake of Gary Barnett's departure. There's good experience and talent remaining in Evanston. The success or failure of the season will come down to the offensive line's ability to protect Kustok and open holes for Anderson. It's also vital for the defense to get tough against the run and become more opportunistic.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Sam Simmons**	**5-10**	**202**	**Jr.**	Jon Schweighardt	5-10	180	So.
T	**Leon Brockmeier**	**6-7**	**303**	**Jr.**	*Derek Martinez	6-6	285	Fr.
G	**Wayne Lucier**	**6-4**	**294**	**Jr.**	*Carl Matejka	6-5	301	Fr.
C	**Austin King**	**6-4**	**282**	**So.**	Adam Fay	6-4	301	Jr.
G	Jeff Roehl	6-4	290	So.	Jack Harnedy	6-7	297	Sr.
T	**Mike Souza**	**6-6**	**296**	**Jr.**	Lance Clelland	6-5	312	Jr.
TE	David Farman	6-5	252	So.	*Eric Worley	6-4	251	Fr.
WR	Teddy Johnson	5-11	190	Sr.	Derrick Thompson	5-9	178	Sr.
QB	**Zak Kustok**	**6-1**	**212**	**Jr.**	Bob Barz	6-2	203	So.
RB	**Damien Anderson**	**5-10**	**208**	**Jr.**	Louis Ayeni	6-0	202	So.
FB	Mike Sherry	6-4	232	Jr.	Gilles Lezi	6-1	230	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Dwayne Missouri**	**6-5**	**265**	**Sr.**	Pete Konopka	6-4	255	Jr.
T	**Javiar Collins**	**6-6**	**310**	**Sr.**	*Matt Anderson	6-4	278	Fr.
T	Pete Chapman	6-3	292	So.	Jeff Baer	6-3	281	Jr.
E	Conrad Emmerich	6-5	270	Sr.	*Gabe Nyenhuis	6-4	261	Fr.
OLB	**Napoleon Harris**	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**	Onaje Grimes	6-2	233	So.
MLB	**Billy Silva**	**6-3**	**245**	**Jr.**	Vincent Cartaya	6-4	235	So.
OLB	**Kevin Bentley**	**6-1**	**233**	**Jr.**	Patt Durr	6-2	229	So.
CB	**Harold Blackmon**	**6-0**	**205**	**Sr.**	Raheem Covington	5-9	176	So.
SS	Rashidi Wheeler	6-0	213	Jr	Marvin Brown	5-10	197	Jr.
FS	**Rashad Morton**	**5-11**	**213**	**Sr.**	Sean Wieber	6-1	197	So.
CB	Chasda Martin	5-11	194	So.	**S. Cummings-John**	**5-11**	**196**	**Jr.**

Special Teams

K	**Tim Long**	**6-1**	**195**	**Sr.**	**P**	**J.J. Standring**	**6-0**	**206**	**Jr.**

More on Northwestern at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/northwestern/ AOL keyword: TSN

SCOUTING THE PAC-10

Scheduling quirk will deny fans USC-Washington tilt that would have been top game

CONFERENCE RANK 4

By Bob Clark

Offense against defense. Perennial power on the rebound against a tradition-steeped program trying to return to the top. A Washington-USC game this season would be everything anyone could want—except that the league's two favorites won't play each other for the second straight year. One quirk in the Pac-10 scheduling process—at least until the schedules expand from 11 to 12 games—is that each conference team does not play one of its brethren in consecutive seasons. This year, Washington-USC would have been the premier game of contrasts, a Husky offense that should move the ball against anybody against a Trojan defense that returns 10 starters. Minus that matchup, the Huskies and Trojans will have to settle for concentrating on a couple of teams that have been recent nemeses: Oregon and UCLA. The Huskies have an early date at Oregon (September 30) and entertain the Bruins late (November 11), when the Rose Bowl berth could be decided as it was last season, when UCLA knocked out the Huskies with an upset in Pasadena. It's a similar situation for the Trojans, who play the Ducks in Los Angeles midway through the schedule (October 14) and have their usual late-season matchup against the Bruins (November 18).

Ascending: UCLA and USC. With all that young talent toughened by a 4-7 season and all their injuries healed, the Bruins are primed for a return to the first division. Only a questionable situation at quarterback will keep them out of the title chase. There's no worry at quarterback for the Trojans, who have Carson Palmer back from his broken collarbone plus a crew of swift receivers.

Descending: Once on top, there's only one way to go, and Stanford doesn't figure to have the magic of last season's championship run, especially with a change at quarterback. The most disappointing team of 1999, Arizona, could fall even further from its 6-6 finish of a year ago.

Dream schedule: Arizona State. The Sun Devils should win their three non-league games (San Diego State, Colorado State and Utah State) and then they get to play fellow contenders Washington, Oregon and USC all at home.

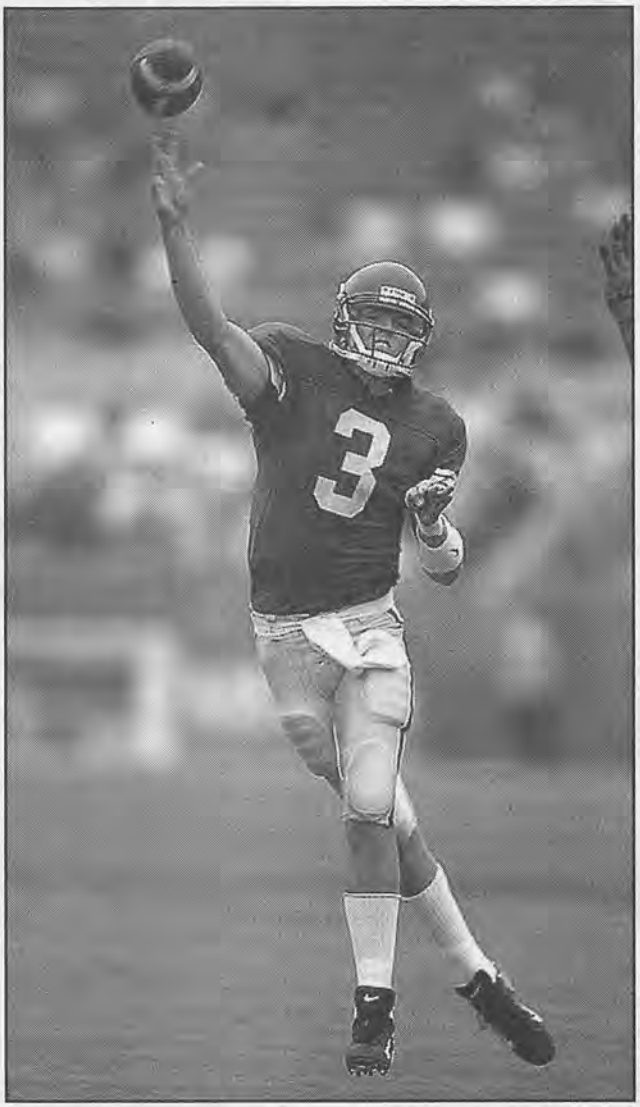
Nightmare schedule: UCLA. Four of the first five games are against Alabama, Michigan, Oregon and Arizona State. After a brief respite, the Bruins finish up with defending champion Stanford and this season's favorites, Washington and USC. Thankfully, they get to play five of those seven games at home.

Best matchup: Oregon at USC, October 14. In the last three years, the Ducks and Trojans have been separated by two, four and three points—last year's game went to three overtimes with Oregon winning 33-30. A non-league game of special intrigue is scheduled September 16, when Rick Neuheisel takes his Washington Huskies to Colorado, where some hard feelings remain about his departure from Boulder to Seattle.

Ugliest matchup: Either of two games on September 2: Eastern Washington at Oregon State or Nevada at Oregon. Eastern is the only Division I-AA opponent on a Pac-10 schedule this fall, and the Beavers are likely to show why. Only 45 miles away that same day, the Ducks will be host to Nevada in a rematch of a game Oregon won 72-10 last season.

Upset of the year: Oregon State over Washington in Seattle on October 7. The Huskies will be between road trips to Oregon and Arizona State, and they are unlikely to take seriously a team they have beaten every year since 1985 and last year beat 47-21 after leading 45-0 at halftime.

Bowl bound: USC or Washington will go to the Rose Bowl, with the other settling for the Holiday Bowl. That leaves the Sun Bowl for UCLA and the games in Honolulu (the Aloha and Oahu bowls) for Oregon and Arizona State. The new game in the west,



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Some consolation: *Palmer and the Trojans don't get to play Washington this fall, but their October 14 game against Oregon could be another classic.*

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
Arizona	9	9	5	8	5	9	10	10	10	5
Arizona State	2	4	4	4	7	2	7	3	6	6
California	7	10	6	9	3	10	9	9	7	9
Oregon	5	5	7	5	6	7	6	7	1	2
Oregon State	4	7	9	7	9	5	3	4	8	7
Stanford	8	3	8	6	4	6	8	6	5	3
UCLA	6	1	2	3	2	3	4	2	4	4
USC	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	8
Washington	1	6	1	2	8	8	2	5	3	1
Washington St.	10	8	10	10	10	4	5	8	9	10

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-PACIFIC-10

First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kareem Kelly, USC	6-1	185	So.
WR	Freddie Mitchell, UCLA	6-0	183	Jr.
TE	Todd Heap, Arizona State	6-5	232	Jr.
T	Victor Leyva, Arizona State	6-4	303	Sr.
T	Chad Ward, Washington	6-5	330	Sr.
G	Eric Heitmann, Stanford	6-4	285	Jr.
G	Brian Polak, UCLA	6-4	330	Sr.
C	Bruce Wiggins, Arizona	6-3	280	Sr.
QB	Marques Tuiasosopo, Washington	6-2	215	Sr.
RB	DeShaun Foster, UCLA	6-1	210	Jr.
RB	Ken Simonton, Oregon State	5-7	175	Jr.

Defense

E	Andre Carter, California	6-4	260	Sr.
E	Kenyon Coleman, UCLA	6-6	278	Sr.
T	Willie Howard, Stanford	6-4	290	Sr.
T	Ennis Davis, USC	6-4	300	Sr.
LB	Adam Archuleta, Arizona State	6-0	213	Sr.
LB	Zeke Moreno, USC	6-3	240	Sr.
LB	Riall Johnson, Stanford	6-3	240	Sr.
CB	Antuan Simmons, USC	5-10	190	Sr.
CB	Dennis Weathersby, Oregon State	6-1	203	So.
S	Hakim Akbar, Washington	6-1	195	Jr.
S	Lamont Thompson, Washington St.	6-2	208	Sr.

Specialists

K	Mike Biselli, Stanford	5-10	180	Sr.
P	Nick Harris, California	6-3	220	Sr.
KR	Paul Arnold, Washington	6-1	210	So.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	DeRonnie Pitts, Stanford	5-11	195	Sr.
WR	Brian Poli-Dixon, UCLA	6-5	211	Jr.
TE	Jerramy Stevens, Washington	6-7	220	So.
T	Brent McCaffrey, USC	6-5	275	Sr.
T	Lee Gundy, Oregon	6-6	325	Sr.
G	Steven Grace, Arizona	6-3	286	Jr.
G	Keith DiDomenico, Oregon State	6-5	320	Sr.
C	Scott Peters, Arizona State	6-3	312	Jr.
QB	Carson Palmer, USC	6-5	220	Jr.
RB	Delvon Flowers, Arizona State	5-11	185	Sr.
RB	Joe Igber, California	5-8	190	So.

Defense

E	Sultan Abdul-Malik, USC	6-3	240	Sr.
E	Saul Patu, Oregon	6-3	265	Sr.
T	Larry Tripplett, Washington	6-2	295	Jr.
T	Jacob Waasdorp, California	6-2	275	Sr.
LB	Matt Smith, Oregon	6-4	247	Sr.
LB	Curtis Holden, Washington State	6-2	225	Sr.
LB	Markus Steele, USC	6-3	215	Sr.
CB	Rashad Bauman, Oregon	5-8	185	Jr.
CB	Chidi Iwuoma, California	5-9	185	Sr.
S	Terrence Carroll, Oregon State	6-0	209	Sr.
S	Tank Williams, Stanford	6-3	210	Jr.

Specialists

K	John Anderson, Washington	6-1	170	So.
P	Kurtis Doerr, Oregon	6-2	215	Sr.
KR	Bobby Wade, Arizona	5-11	180	So.

Newcomer of the Year

Offense: Maurice Morris, TB, Oregon
Defense: Paul Glass, E, Arizona State

the Silicon Valley Bowl in San Jose, may well be looking for a Pac-10 team, and Oregon State should make itself available and eligible with a weak non-league schedule that promises half of the required six victories.

Biggest shoes to fill: QB Todd Husak's, at Stanford. With Joe Borchard likely to be wooed away from his final season by a large baseball contract, either redshirt freshman Chris Lewis or junior Randy Fasani, who took more snaps last season at tight end and linebacker, will be the new Cardinal starter.

Most overrated player: Oregon State QB Jonathan Smith. In an offense designed for the quarterback to shine, he didn't, especially when it counted. Yes, he threw for 3,053 yards, but he didn't finish in the league's top 10 in passing efficiency, the measuring stick of a quarterback. And he completed less than 50 percent of his passes in five of eight league games and the Oahu Bowl.

Most underrated player: Washington FB Pat Conniff. You won't find him listed anywhere in the Pac-10 statistics, but on every play he's either throwing a key block to spring the tailback or protecting QB Marques Tuiasosopo from a blitzing linebacker. And if you ignore Conniff as a runner he's likely to bust a key gain up the middle.

Best coach: Could it be Oregon's Mike Bellotti? He's coached the Ducks for five years and had a winning record in each of them, plus four bowl bids. If it's not Bellotti it's the one coach he can't seem to beat, Washington's Rick Neuheisel, who is 3-0 against the Ducks, in bowl games at Colorado and his one year with the Huskies.

Best staff: An even tougher choice, but give the nod to the Huskies over the Ducks. Neuheisel's group, which includes former Cal head coach Keith Gilbertson, rallied the Huskies from an 0-2 start last season to the Holiday Bowl, making major adjustments in the offense along the way. Then the Huskies overcame their penalties for recruiting violations the previous year to regain dominance in their home state. They also added some key recruits from elsewhere in the West.

Recruiting RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Kwame Harris	OL	6-7/320	Newark, Del./Newark	Stanford
2. Alex Holmes	TE	6-2/295	Sherman Oaks, Calif./Harvard-Westlake	USC
3. Terrell Suggs	ATH	6-5/240	Chandler, Ariz./Hamilton	Arizona State
4. Matt Grootegoed	DB	5-11/205	Huntington Beach, Calif./Mater Dei	USC
5. Maurice Morris	TB	6-0/205	Chester, S.C./Fresno (Calif.) CC	Oregon
6. Teyo Johnson	QB	6-6/240	San Diego, Calif./Mira Mesa	Stanford
7. Amon Gordon	LB	6-3/260	San Diego, Calif./Mira Mesa	Stanford
8. Tab Perry	WR	6-3/215	Milpitas, Calif./Milpitas	UCLA
9. Brandon Royster	TB	6-0/195	Fairfax, Va./Fairfax	Stanford
10. Andrew Walter	QB	6-5/190	Grand Junction, Colo./Grand Juncton	Arizona State
11. Joe McGuire	OL	6-5/280	Anaheim, Calif./Servite	USC
12. Dan Dicks	OL	6-6/290	Bellevue, Wash./Bellevue	Washington
13. Skyler Fulton	ATH	6-1/180	Olympia, Wash./Capital	Arizona State
14. Keary Colbert	WR	6-1/185	Lake Elsinore, Calif./Temescal Canyon	USC
15. Paul Mociler	OL	6-5/300	La Mirada, Calif.St. John Bosco	UCLA
16. Derick Arnold	TB	6-2/220	Houston/Milby	Arizona State
17. Paul Glass	DL	6-7/310	Bakersfield, Calif./Bakersfield (Calif.) JC	Arizona State
18. Chris Cash	DB	5-11/170	Stockton, Calif./Palomar (Calif.) JC	USC
19. Will Svitek	TE	6-6/235	Newbury Park, Calif./Newbury Park	Stanford
20. Ben Emanuel	DB	6-3/185	Friendswood, Texas/Clear Brook	UCLA
21. Keith Lewis	ATH	6-1/190	Sacramento, Calif./Valley	Oregon
22. Stanley Wilson	DB	6-0/175	Carson, Calif./Bishop Montgomery	Stanford
23. Clarence Farmer	TB	6-0/200	Houston, Texas/Washington	Arizona
24. Brandon Chillar	LB	6-3/230	Carlsbad, Calif./Carlsbad HS	UCLA
25. Roc Alexander	DB	6-1/185	Colorado Springs, Colo./Wasson	Washington
26. Marcus Roberson	DL	6-4/285	Walnut, Calif./Mt. San Antonio (Tex.) JC	Washington
27. Charles Favroth	DB	5-10/170	Antioch, Calif./De La Salle	Oregon
28. George Gillett	WR	6-3/185	Los Angeles/Manual Arts	Oregon State
29. Keith Allen	WR	6-1/195	Torrance, Calif./West Torrance	Oregon
30. Ricky Williams	WR	6-3/195	Los Angeles/Verbum Dei	Arizona
31. Zach Tuiasosopo	LB	6-2/225	Woodinville, Wash.Woodinville	Washington
32. Paris Warren	WR	6-1/190	Sacramento, Calif./Grant	Oregon
33. Pat Norton	FB	6-1/280	Saugus, Calif./Hart	UCLA
34. Travis Scott	OL	6-6/300	Mesa, Ariz./Mesa (Arizona) CC	Arizona State
35. Vince Feula	DL	6-0/289	La Mirada, Calif. /La Mirada	Arizona
36. Chad Heydorff	WR	6-1/185	La Canada, Calif./Glendale (Calif.) CC	California
37. Seth Lacey	LB	6-2/215	Eugene, Ore./Churchill	Oregon State
38. Terry Johnson	TE	6-4/245	Chandler Ariz./McClintock	Washington
39. Anthony Fulcher	DB	5-11/190	Scottsdale, Ariz./Horizon	Arizona
40. Dave Minnich	TB	6-0/210	Stonington, Conn./Mt San Antonio (Tex.) JC	Washington State

RANKING the CLASSES

1. USC
2. Arizona State
3. UCLA
4. Oregon
5. Washington
6. Arizona
7. California
8. Stanford
9. Oregon State
10. Washington St.

Coach on the hot seat: Paul Hackett is 14-11 in his two seasons at USC, with arguably the best talent in the league. His team is the favorite this year, and it might take a Rose Bowl trip to keep him in good favor with the USC boosters. But Hackett is not alone. Both coaches in the desert, Dick Tomey at Arizona and Bruce Snyder at Arizona State, have their detractors and probably need winning seasons. That kind of record might not be needed by Tom Holmoe at Cal or Mike Price at Washington State, but both need to show some signs of improvement in their programs. In other words, a year after there were no changes among head coaches in the Pac-10 there could be more than one.

Best bets: After falling on its face as the Pac-10 favorite last season, Arizona will be better than expected in 2000. When expectations are high, the Wildcats are disappointing; but when they're low, they exceed them. ... Oregon will play at least one overtime game. Since overtime was instituted in Division I games in 1996, the Ducks have played at least one overtime game each year, and six times total, more than any other team in the conference. ... Washington K John Anderson will set the school record for longest field goal, which he tied last season with a 56-yarder against UCLA. Anderson had three field goals of 50 or more yards as a true freshman in 1999. ... Speedy USC WR Kareem Kelly will score touchdowns three different ways this season: on a reception, on a reverse and on a return.

Odds and ends: Mark down September 9 as a key date for the league in its attempt to restore some of its lost national prestige. On that afternoon and evening, Arizona plays Ohio State, USC plays Colorado and Washington plays Miami, all Pac-10 home games, and Oregon is at Wisconsin. Oh, and Stanford will try to break a two-year losing streak to San Jose State ... Pac-10 teams should be able to share some early scouting reports. Washington, Oregon and Washington State all play Idaho in September, and Arizona State, Arizona and Oregon State all have games against San Diego State. Washington State, California and Arizona all play Utah in the first month ... Every season there is some shuffling of assistant coaches, but not often has it been as wild as this off-season in the Pac-10. It was especially notable because there wasn't one change in head coaches. In revamping its offensive staff, USC hired Dan Ferrigno away from Cal to coach receivers and fired line coach Steve Greatwood, who was then hired by Arizona State, only to resign a week later when he was offered the job coaching defensive linemen at Oregon, where Greatwood had played and coached for 18 years before leaving after 1994 for an NFL job. The offensive line job at ASU opened when Dan Cozzetto left the Sun Devils for Oregon State, which later hired Craig Bray away from Washington State to be defensive coordinator. Maybe taking a cue from the Beavers, who had those jobs to fill because assistants left for the NFL, Washington filled an opening created by an assistant leaving for pro football by also hiring from a conference rival, taking Brent Myers to coach receivers only six weeks after Arizona had hired him ... The four Northwest schools have all talked in recent years about going back to natural grass playing surfaces, but research into the matter and improvements in products have led all four to decide to remain with artificial turfs. Oregon State put a new one in before the 1999 season, Washington State did so this summer and Oregon switch rugs after this season ends. Washington is likely to follow suit, especially with the NFL Seahawks playing at Husky Stadium for the next two years while a new facility is built for them.

JASON WISE FOR TSN

New boss: *Arizona State's Victor Leyva, one of the top offensive tackles in the league, will have a new position coach.*

Pac-10 IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. USC	Must develop a ground game. Veteran unit has to dominate.	WR Kareem Kelly QB Carson Palmer	T Ennis Davis CB Antuan Simmons	Sept. 9 vs. Colorado Nov. 25 vs. Notre Dame
2. Washington	Must stretch the field with deep threats. Rebuilt line needs to generate pass rush.	QB Marques Tuiasosopo T Chad Ward	FS Hakim Akbar CB Anthony Vontoure	Sept. 9 vs. Miami (Fla.) Nov. 11 vs. UCLA
3. UCLA	Line must stay healthy because it lacks depth. Thin secondary could be vulnerable.	WR Freddie Mitchell RB DeShaun Foster	E Kenyon Coleman T Ken Kocher	Sept. 2 vs. Alabama Nov. 18 vs. USC
4. Oregon	Running back has to emerge. Needs to replace playmakers at safety.	WR Marshaun Tucker T Lee Gundy	E Saul Patu LB Matt Smith	Sept. 9 at Wisconsin Sept. 30 vs. Washington
5. Arizona State	QB Ryan Kealy needs to stay healthy. Line must be tough against the run.	TE Todd Heap T Victor Leyva	LB Adam Archuleta LB Solomon Bates	Sept. 16 vs. Colorado State Oct. 28 vs. Oregon
6. Oregon State	Playmaker needed at quarterback. Line has to replace three starters.	RB Ken Simonton G Keith DiDomenico	CB Dennis Weathersby SS Terrence Carroll	Sept. 23 vs. San Diego State Nov. 18 vs. Oregon
7. Stanford	With Todd Husak gone, a quarterback is needed. Secondary and inside linebackers are shaky.	WR DeRonnie Pitts G Eric Heitmann	T Willie Howard LB Riall Johnson	Sept. 16 vs. Texas Oct. 14 at Oregon State
8. Arizona	Young running backs need to emerge. More turnovers needed; secondary must develop.	C Bruce Wiggins QB Orteje Jenkins	E Joe Tafoya T Keoni Fraser	Sept. 9 vs. Ohio State Nov. 18 vs. Arizona State
9. California	Rebuilt line must protect QB Kyle Boller. Linebacking corps has to be developed.	RB Joe Igber T Langston Walker	E Andre Carter CB Chidi Iwuoma	Sept. 16 at Illinois Nov. 18 vs. Stanford
10. Washington State	Line needs to jell so skill talent can shine. Line lacks experience, and linebacker depth is iffy.	RB Deon Burnett WR Marcus Williams	FS Lamont Thompson CB Marcus Trufant	Sept. 16 at Utah Nov. 18 vs. Washington

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Players of the Year

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

OFFENSE

Marques Tuiasosopo, QB, Washington

For a couple weeks, Marques Tuiasosopo was a baseball player again, just as he had been in high school when he was enough of a prospect to be drafted by a major league team. And then his brief fling with the Washington baseball team was over.

Wise move, considering there never has been anybody quite like Tuiasosopo at the controls of the Husky offense. He finished third in the Pac-10 in passing yardage in 1999, completing 57.9 percent of his attempts (171-of-295) for 2,221 yards with 12 touchdowns. And he ranked 10th in the league in rushing yardage with 541 yards and six touchdowns.

"You just can't defend him," says Nick Aliotti, the Oregon defensive coordinator. "He's a good enough thrower that you have to defend that. He can beat you running the option, or taking off on a broken play. And you know what makes him so special? He's a tough guy."

"You don't always hear that description of a quarterback but he is a tough sucker, the toughest we've played against in long time," says Kent Baer, the Stanford defensive coordinator.

Tuiasosopo, a 6-2, 215-pound senior, was at his best in a 35-30 win over Stanford, when he totalled 509 yards offense. Though hampered by a bruised hip suffered early in the game, Tuiasosopo passed for 302 yards and ran for 207, the first time a player had passed for 300 yards and rushed for 200 in an NCAA Division I game.

The recent history of the Pac-10 is a senior quarterback (Danny O'Neil, Jake Plummer, Cade McNown, Todd Husak) enjoys a standout senior year and ends up guiding his team to the Rose Bowl. And now Tuiasosopo? It could be. —*Bob Clark*

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

DEFENSE

Willie Howard, T, Stanford

The images don't fit Willie Howard. He's a Stanford student who likes to be known as one of the "Trench Dogs," the nickname given the Cardinal defense, and will wear a piece of chain-link fence around his neck to make sure everyone knows it. He's a Stanford football player who isn't known for throwing or catching passes. And lastly, he's a player who not only has fun at practice but who enjoyed a winter and spring of rehabilitation exercises after knee surgery.

"I think if you can, you want to make anything you do fun," says Howard, a senior tackle.

There's little doubt Howard gets the most out of football and enjoys himself while doing it. So does Stanford, which made its unlikely run to the Rose Bowl last fall partly because Howard was such a dominant player. Howard ranked third in the league in tackles for losses with 19 and made 10 sacks. But that fails to measure his impact.

"We probably don't move him around as much as we should because he can be so disruptive," says Kent Baer, the Cardinal's defensive coordinator. "That's not easy to do, be second in the league in sacks as an inside player. He's one of the best at rushing from the inside I've been around ... and that's why he gets double-teamed so much. If we could get more one-on-one matchups for him, he certainly has the advantage."

"It's frustrating because it's not a one-on-one situation—that's the atmosphere that you love to have—but it just says players and coaches respect you," Howard says. "If I'm taking two blockers, that leaves somebody open, doesn't it?" —*Bob Clark*

Pacific-10

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Trung Canidate, Arizona, Sr.	12	253	1,602	6.3	11	133.5
2. Ken Simonton, Oregon State, So.	**11**	**276**	**1,329**	**4.8**	**17**	**120.8**
3. Reuben Droughns, Oregon, Sr.	10	256	1,139	4.4	9	113.9
4. J.R. Redmond, Arizona, Sr.	10	224	1,085	4.8	12	108.5
5. Chad Morton, USC, Sr.	12	262	1,141	4.4	15	95.1
6. Deon Burnett, Washington State, Fr.	**12**	**209**	**974**	**4.7**	**12**	**81.2**
7. Joe Igber, California, Fr.	**11**	**148**	**694**	**4.7**	**2**	**63.1**
8. Willie Hurst, Washington, So.	**9**	**126**	**546**	**4.3**	**5**	**60.7**
9. Brian Allen, Stanford, So.	**11**	**115**	**604**	**5.3**	**4**	**54.9**
10. Marques Tuiasosopo, Washington, Jr.	**11**	**138**	**541**	**3.9**	**6**	**49.2**

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Joe Borchard, Stanford, Jr.	**9**	**71**	**42**	**.592**	**1**	**747**	**10.5**	**7**	**177.3**
2. Ortege Jenkins, Arizona, Jr.	**12**	**131**	**79**	**.603**	**5**	**1,082**	**8.3**	**9**	**144.7**
3. Todd Husak, Stanford, Sr.	10	308	176	.571	11	2,688	8.7	18	142.6
4. Keith Smith, Arizona, Sr.	11	228	131	.575	8	1,903	8.4	10	135.0
5. A.J. Feeley, Oregon, Jr.	**10**	**259**	**136**	**.525**	**6**	**1,951**	**7.5**	**14**	**129.0**
6. Marques Tuiasosopo, Wash. Jr.	**11**	**295**	**171**	**.579**	**11**	**2,221**	**7.5**	**12**	**127.2**
7. Ryan Kealy, Arizona State, Jr.	**11**	**267**	**148**	**.554**	**10**	**1,976**	**7.4**	**10**	**122.5**
8. Drew Bennett, UCLA, Jr.	**10**	**89**	**49**	**.551**	**4**	**641**	**7.2**	**4**	**121.4**
9. Steve Birnbaum, Wash. State, Sr.	12	307	174	.569	5	2,022	6.6	11	120.6
10. Jonathan Smith, Ore. St., So.	**11**	**385**	**188**	**.488**	**7**	**2,784**	**7.2**	**15**	**118.8**

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Dennis Northcutt, Arizona, Sr.	12	88	1,422	8	7.3	16.2
2. Troy Walters, Stanford, Sr.	11	74	1,456	10	6.7	19.7
3. Windrell Hayes, USC, Sr.	10	55	720	4	5.5	13.1
4. DeRonnie Pitts, Stanford, Sr.	11	58	853	8	5.3	14.7
5. R. Jay Soward, USC, Sr.	11	51	655	4	4.6	12.8
6. Todd Heap, Arizona State, So.	**11**	**50**	**793**	**3**	**4.6**	**15.9**
7. Kareem Kelly, USC, Fr.	**12**	**54**	**902**	**4**	**4.5**	**16.7**
8. Tony Hartley, Oregon, Sr.	11	49	768	3	4.5	15.7
9. Leaford Hackett, Washington State, Sr.	10	44	525	2	4.4	11.9
10. Nian Taylor, Washington State, Sr.	12	51	627	3	4.3	12.3

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Arizona (15)	218.8
2. Washington (21)	189.7
3. Arizona State (27)	179.2
4. Oregon (44)	157.0
5. Stanford (48)	153.6
6. Oregon State (58)	146.7
7. USC (62)	145.0
8. Washington St. (90)	113.9
9. UCLA (96)	108.3
10. California (101)	99.7

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Stanford (10)	313.5
2. Oregon State (14)	287.3
3. Oregon (19)	266.4
4. USC (22)	257.7
5. Arizona (26)	253.1
6. Arizona State (40)	231.2
7. Washington St. (44)	227.8
8. UCLA (51)	218.7
9. Washington (62)	206.9
10. California (96)	151.1

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Arizona (3)	471.9
2. Stanford (5)	467.1
3. Oregon State (10)	434.0
4. Oregon (17)	423.4
5. Arizona State (28)	410.4
6. USC (37)	402.7
7. Washington (42)	396.6
8. Washington St. (77)	341.7
9. UCLA (85)	327.0
10. California (111)	250.8

Defense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. USC (29)	117.3
2. California (31)	117.9
3. Oregon (38)	125.6
4. Washington (48)	140.5
5. Arizona (52)	143.3
6. Stanford (58)	147.9
7. Oregon State (74)	164.4
8. Arizona State (77)	166.3
9. Washington St. (80)	167.9
10. UCLA (94)	189.7

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. Oregon State (9)	98.9
2. Washington St. (41)	113.9
3. USC (42)	113.9
4. Oregon (52)	116.4
5. Washington (56)	118.1
6. Arizona State (57)	118.2
7. California (58)	118.6
8. UCLA (74)	126.1
9. Stanford (85)	130.4
10. Arizona (96)	134.5

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. California (46)	352.6
2. Oregon State (48)	355.6
3. USC (59)	373.0
4. Arizona (69	377.8
5. Washington St. (71)	378.7
6. Oregon (76)	383.9
7. Washington (83)	389.2
8. Arizona State (89)	392.4
9. UCLA (107)	444.6
10. Stanford (110)	452.8

1 USC

NATIONAL RANK 9

Coach: Paul Hackett (14-11, 2 years; 27-31-1 overall, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Hue Jackson (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: Bill Young (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 5
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 44
Site: Los Angeles
Stadium: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (grass, 92,000)
Last league title won: 1995 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 64
1999 record: 6-6. Pac-10: 3-5/T6th

1999 Results

at Hawaii, W, 62-7
San Diego State, W, 24-21
at Oregon, L, 33-30 (3 OT)
Oregon State, W, 37-29
at Arizona, L, 31-24
at Notre Dame, L, 25-24
Stanford, L, 35-31
at California, L, 17-7
Arizona State, L, 26-16
at Wash. State, W, 31-28
UCLA, W, 17-7
Louisiana Tech, W, 45-17

Schedule

A27—Penn State*
S9—Colorado
S23—San Jose State
S30—at Oregon State
O7—Arizona
O14—Oregon
O21—at Stanford
O28—California
N4—at Arizona State
N11—Washington State
N18—at UCLA
N25—Notre Dame
*at East Rutherford, N.J.

Offensive philosophy: The Trojans may preach balance, but unless they find a tailback to settle on, this figures to be a passing team. QB Carson Palmer and a group of swift, young receivers have big-play potential. The days of Tailback U are long gone, but Palmer should be able to trigger a potent offense.
Offensive stars: Palmer completed 73.6 percent of his passes last year but had a big miss when he didn't avoid an Oregon defensive back in the third game of the season and suffered a broken collarbone. He was done and so were the Trojans. With Palmer healthy and sophomore WR Kareem Kelly likely to be a much more consistent performer than the graduated R. Jay Soward, this might be the best throw-and-catch combo in the Pac-10.
Offensive concerns: Beyond Palmer's injury, much of USC's offensive struggles last season were blamed on the line, which lost its best player, G Travis Claridge. There are five returnees with starting experience, and those standout recruiting classes of the past two years should add some depth. But who will run the ball behind those blockers? There's a cast of possible runners headed by speedster Sultan McCullough and power backs Malaefou MacKenzie and Petros Papadakis, but if the Trojans thought so much of them, why was so much recruiting effort expended on a JC tailback, Maurice Morris, who went to Oregon?
Defensive philosophy: This is a big-play group that should be able to dominate, with overwhelming speed among the 10 returning starters. The cornerbacks can man-up on receivers and match speed, which opens up blitzing options on passing downs when those other nine aren't ganging up on the running game.
Defensive stars: There are some up front, where DE Sultan Abdul-Malik and DT Ennis Davis return, and in the secondary, where there is such depth that all-league candidate Antuan Simmons had to fret about losing his starting cornerback job while watching in the spring as he recovered from back surgery. In between are the linebackers, Zeke Moreno in the middle and Markus Steele on the outside. Either might be the league's defensive player of the year.
Defensive concerns: Other than Davis, there isn't great size up front, so the Trojans could be bullied by physical teams such as Penn State and Notre Dame. Except for those two, though, this year's opponents are mostly Pac-10 teams that aren't known for that style of play, so the major worry is staying healthy.
Special teams: Even with Soward and Chad Morton returning kicks last season USC was fourth in the league in punt returns and ninth on kickoffs, so improvement is in order. Sophomore receivers Kelly and Marcell Allmond have the speed to make things better. The punting should be solid with Mike MacGillivray, but the Trojans don't feel quite so good about Ks David Bell and David Newbury, who combined to make 12-of-22 field goals last year.
Head coach: As Paul Hackett begins his third season at USC, the pressure is on to produce something more than last year's 6-6 record—and that was accomplished only with three consecutive wins to end the season. After overhauling his coaching staff in the offseason, the blame will fall squarely on Hackett if this team is anything less than a title contender.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Good company: *Davis, though not as big, may be as talented as former Trojans defensive tackle and NFL first-round pick Darrell Russell.*

Schedule: After opening against Penn State in the Kickoff Classic, the Trojans will play seven of their final 11 games at home—and one of the road games is across town at UCLA. Their final two games are against the Bruins and Notre Dame, and the Trojans haven't defeated both of them in the same season since 1981, and not on consecutive Saturdays since 1978, when USC won its last national championship.
Bottom line: The Trojans enter the season as slight favorites to win the Pac-10 title and return to the Rose Bowl for the first time in five years. If they don't at least come close to realizing that goal, it will be a major disappointment.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kareem Kelly	6-1	185	So.	Matt Nickels	6-2	200	Sr.
T	**Brent McCaffrey**	**6-5**	**275**	**Sr.**	Faaesea Mailo	6-4	330	Jr.
G	**Trevor Roberts**	**6-4**	**305**	**Sr.**	Faaesea Mailo	6-4	330	Jr.
C	**Eric Denmon**	**6-1**	**280**	**Sr.**	*Lenny Vandermade	6-5	245	Fr.
G	**Zach Wilson**	**6-5**	**315**	**So.**	*Lenny Vandermade	6-4	270	Fr.
T	*Jacob Rogers	6-6	275	Fr.	*Nate Steinbacher	6-6	320	Fr.
TE	**Antoine Harris**	**6-4**	**245**	**Sr.**	Alex Holmes	6-2	295	Fr.
WR	Marcell Allmond	6-1	190	So.	Steve Stevenson	6-2	200	So.
QB	Carson Palmer	6-5	220	Jr.	**Mike Van Raaphorst**	**6-5**	**220**	**Sr.**
RB	Sultan McCullough	6-0	185	So.	Malaefou MacKenzie	6-0	215	Jr.
FB	**Charlie Landrigan**	**6-0**	**225**	**Jr.**	Chad Pierson	6-1	240	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Sultan Abdul-Malik**	**6-3**	**240**	**Sr.**	**Lonnie Ford**	**6-3**	**250**	**Jr.**
T	**Ryan Nielsen**	**6-5**	**275**	**Jr.**	Bernard Riley	6-3	305	So.
T	**Ennis Davis**	**6-4**	**300**	**Sr.**	Bobby DeMars	6-4	250	Jr.
E	**Matt Childers**	**6-4**	**260**	**Sr.**	S. Abdul-Shaheed	6-4	250	Sr.
OLB	Kori Dickerson	6-4	220	Jr.	*Chris Prosser	6-2	225	Fr.
MLB	**Zeke Moreno**	**6-3**	**240**	**Sr.**	Aaron Graham	6-1	225	So.
OLB	**Markus Steele**	**6-3**	**215**	**Sr.**	Henry Wallace	6-2	210	Jr.
CB	**Antuan Simmons**	**5-10**	**190**	**Sr.**	Darrell Rideaux	5-9	175	So.
SS	**Ifeanyi Ohalete**	**6-2**	**225**	**Sr.**	Troy Polamalu	5-10	210	So.
FS	Kevin Arbet	5-11	175	So.	Frank Strong	6-1	220	Jr.
CB	**Kris Richard**	**6-0**	**180**	**Jr.**	Chris Cash	5-11	170	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**David Newbury**	**5-9**	**170**	**Jr.**
P	**Mike MacGillivray**	**5-10**	**205**	**Jr.**

More on USC at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/usc/ AOL keyword: TSN

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

2 Washington

NATIONAL RANK 16

Coach: Rick Neuheisel (7-5, 1 year; 40-19 overall, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Keith Gilbertson (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Tim Hundley (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 57
Site: Seattle
Stadium: Husky (turf, 72,500)
Last league title won: 1995 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1994
1999 TSN rank: 30
1999 record: 7-5 (lost to Kansas State in Holiday Bowl). Pac-10: 6-2/T2nd.

1999 Results

at BYU, L, 35-28
Air Force, L, 31-21
Colorado, W, 31-24
Oregon, W, 34-20
at Oregon State, W, 47-21
Arizona State, L, 28-7
at California, W, 31-27
Stanford, W, 35-30
at Arizona, W, 33-25
at UCLA, L, 23-20
Washington St., W, 24-14
Kansas State, L, 24-20

Schedule

S2—Idaho
S9—Miami (Fla.)
S16—at Colorado
S30—at Oregon
O7—Oregon State
O14—at Arizona State
O21—California
O28—at Stanford
N4—Arizona
N11—UCLA
N18—at Washington State

Offensive philosophy: The Huskies discovered a year ago that they could do something no other Pac-10 team could: run an option, ball-control offense like the ones Rick Neuheisel had coached against in the Big 12. Better yet, Pac-10 defenses weren't equipped to stop it, especially with QB Marques Tuiasosopo such a strong threat as a runner. With an even better line this year—and probably a better running game, too, with RB Paul Arnold a year older—watch for Washington to tweak the option game to an even higher level.

Offensive stars: Tuiasosopo is the key offensive player in the league, not just this team. If the Huskies can get off to a strong start (i.e., beat Miami and Colorado) watch for him to receive a push for the Heisman Trophy. One guy likely to lead that push on the field is Chad Ward, either at guard or tackle, before he heads off to the NFL. Both as a blocker and receiver, TE Jerramy Stevens is a rising star.

Offensive concerns: Do the Huskies have the receivers to keep defenses from playing 10-man fronts to stop Tuiasosopo? If Washington can't stretch defenses with an occasional deep pass, the offense could bog down. The best hope might be the return of WR Ja'Warren Hooker, if he doesn't qualify for the Olympic team as a sprinter. The biggest worry is that an injury knocks Tuiasosopo out for any length of time.

Defensive philosophy: The Huskies went to a 3-4 defense in Neuheisel's first season by choice, but this team is so thin in defensive linemen it would have been a necessity this season. There isn't the personnel to dominate as previous Washington teams did, so the focus will be on containing offenses and maybe take advantage of their frustration at being kept off the field by the Huskies' ball-control offense.

Defensive stars: Even hampered by injuries in 1999, FS Hakim Akbar made his presence known, and he's likely to be more important as the Huskies struggle to rebuild their front seven, where at least Larry Tripplett has more than proven his worth as a tackle.

Defensive concerns: How will the Huskies be up front? If they can't slow running games, or rush passers, it puts extreme pressure on a couple of new inside linebackers and cornerbacks who, if improved, aren't at their best in one-on-one coverage situations, which will be required if the safeties have to help too much on run support. The key might be if JC transfer Marcus Roberson makes an immediate impact on the line.

Special teams: Washington's perennial question about punting remains, even with senior Ryan Fleming returning. The kicking game, however, is set with John Anderson, who converted 13-of-18 field goals as a freshman. Washington will be dangerous on runbacks with Arnold and possibly Hooker handling kickoffs and plenty of good athletes available to compete for the duty of handling punts.

Head coach: Nobody in the Pac-10 raises the ire of the other coaches quite like Neuheisel, but they love him in Seattle for immediately restoring the Huskies to the status of title contenders. He's also put together an outstanding staff of assistants headed by offensive coordinator Keith Gilbertson, who held that position during the best years of the Don James era.

ROD MAR FOR TSN

Back for more: *OLB Jeremiah Pharms, entering his third season as a starter, was one of four Huskies defenders to start every game last year.*

Schedule: Better enjoy that opener against Idaho, because then come Miami and games at Colorado and Oregon. At least there's a bye between what will be two high-emotion games—Neuheisel's return to Boulder and the annual slugfest with the Ducks. The Huskies don't play USC this year but have both Arizona State and Stanford on the road, in addition to Oregon. That is balanced by warm-weather foes Arizona and UCLA coming to Seattle in November, when the weather worsens and the Huskies improve.

Bottom line: It's no stretch to pick the Huskies to win the conference title, provided Tuiasosopo stays healthy and the defense is OK. Big ifs, sure, but there's a big upside if some of the young players come through.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold **Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Chris Juergens**	**6-3**	**210**	**Jr.**	Wondame Davis	5-11	170	Jr.
T	**Elliot Silvers**	**6-6**	**305**	**Sr.**	*Nick Newton	6-5	315	Fr.
G	Matt Rogers	6-5	300	Sr.	Dominic Daste	6-3	305	Sr.
C	**Kyle Benn**	**6-3**	**305**	**Jr.**	*Todd Bachert	6-4	305	Fr.
G	Elliott Zajac	6-4	305	So.	Matt Fraize	6-4	300	Sr.
T	**Chad Ward**	**6-5**	**330**	**Sr.**	Wes Call	6-7	305	Sr.
TE	**Jerramy Stevens**	**6-7**	**220**	**So.**	Kevin Ware	6-2	260	So.
WR	Todd Elstrom	6-3	200	Jr.	Patrick Reddick	5-9	190	Jr.
QB	**Marques Tuiasosopo**	**6-2**	**215**	**Sr.**	J.K. Scott	6-3	215	Sr.
RB	Paul Arnold	6-1	210	So.	Braxton Cleman	6-1	215	Jr.
FB	Pat Conniff	6-1	245	Sr.	Albert Tuipulotu	6-1	245	Jr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
OLB	**Jeremiah Pharms**	**6-2**	**260**	**Sr.**	Odell George	6-2	245	Sr.
T	**Larry Tripplett**	**6-2**	**295**	**Jr.**	Ossim Hatem	6-3	255	So.
NT	Spencer Marona	6-2	265	So.	Jerome Stevens	6-2	290	Fr.
E	Ryan Julian	6-6	275	Sr.	Ossim Hatem	6-3	255	So.
OLB	Anthony Kelley	6-2	220	Jr.	Levi Madarieta	6-3	210	So.
ILB	**Jafar Williams**	**6-0**	**220**	**Jr.**	*Tyler Krambrink	6-1	210	Fr.
ILB	**Derrell Daniels**	**6-1**	**215**	**Sr.**	Ben Mahdavi	6-2	235	So.
CB	**Anthony Vontoure**	**6-1**	**190**	**Jr.**	Omare Lowe	6-0	200	Jr.
SS	**Curtis Williams**	**5-10**	**195**	**Sr.**	Owen Biddle	5-10	190	So.
FS	**Hakim Akbar**	**6-1**	**195**	**Jr.**	Owen Biddle	5-10	190	So.
CB	Roderick Green	5-11	180	Sr.	Toure Butler	5-9	170	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**John Anderson**	**6-1**	**170**	**So.**	**P**	**Ryan Fleming**	**6-3**	**180**	**Sr.**

3 UCLA

NATIONAL RANK 20

Coach: Bob Toledo (29-17, 4 years; 58-53 overall, 9 years)
Offensive coordinator: Alan Borges (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Bob Field (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 52
Site: Los Angeles
Stadium: Rose Bowl (grass, 94,000)
Last league title won: 1998
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 72
1999 record: 4-7. Pac-10: 2-6/9th

1999 Results

Boise State, W, 38-7
at Ohio State, L, 42-20
Fresno State, W, 35-21
at Stanford, L, 42-32
at Arizona State, L, 28-27
Oregon, W, 34-29
California, L, 17-0
at Oregon State, L, 55-7
Arizona, L, 33-7
Washington, W, 23-20 OT
at USC, L, 17-7

Schedule

S2—Alabama
S9—Fresno State
S16—Michigan
S23—at Oregon
S30—Arizona State
O14—at California
O21—Oregon State
O28—at Arizona
N4—Stanford
N11—at Washington
N18—USC

Offensive philosophy: The Bruins do all they can to confuse an opponent with a variety of formations, multiple shifts and then misdirection, and they have the skill-position players who can take advantage of the situation and make big plays.
Offensive stars: The best of the Bruins are a trio of players coming back from injury-limited 1999 seasons: RB DeShaun Foster and WRs Freddie Mitchell and Brian Poli-Dixon. A healthy Foster could end up leading the Pac-10 in rushing, and a full speed Mitchell might be the league's most dangerous threat on the outside. The line might turn out to be the best in the league, too, with veterans Oscar Cabrera and Brian Polak anchoring it and Mike Saffer only one of many standout sophomores and redshirt freshmen bidding for a starting job.
Offensive concerns: Who runs the offense? Sophomores Cory Paus, returning from a broken collarbone, and Ryan McCann are the leading candidates at quarterback, with junior Scott McEwan in the hunt. With players like Foster and Mitchell, there's not a need for a Cade McNown under center, but this offense does need a capable triggerman.
Defensive philosophy: Much like on offense, the Bruins like big plays and they have the playmakers from front to back to make them. UCLA has gotten pushed around by more physical opponents in recent years, but this group is more mature and stronger than the past two editions.
Defensive stars: DE Kenyon Coleman will be as big a problem for offensive tackles as any pass rusher in the conference, and MLB Robert Thomas should be an anchor along with OLB Ryan Nece, the big-play specialist of the group. Provided baseball doesn't lure him away, sophomore Ricky Manning Jr., a member of THE SPORTING NEWS freshman All-America team last year, is an excellent cover cornerback who stepped right in when veterans Marques Anderson and Jason Bell were forced to miss last season. Both are back this year.
Defensive concerns: Can the Bruins be physical enough against the run? That's especially critical early in the season with non-league opponents such as Alabama and Michigan. There's also a need to fill both safety positions, though Lovell Houston looked like he was ready to claim one of those spots until a late-season concussion last year. Whichever returning cornerback doesn't start could end up as the other safety.
Special teams: Sophomores Nate Fikse, second in the Pac-10 in punting average at 42.0 yards, and Chris Griffith, 13-of-18 on field goals last fall, should give the Bruins a pair of solid kickers. The return game should be exciting with Mitchell on kickoffs and Manning on punts. There are enough very good athletes in reserve that the coverage teams will be solid.
Head coach: Bob Toledo is on relatively safe ground even in the high-pressure atmosphere of Los Angeles. That, of course, can change with another 4-7 season.
Schedule: Eight of the Bruins' opponents are coming off bowl seasons, but all four of their wins last year came against teams that finished in bowls, so maybe a challenge is what they need. They'll play Alabama and Michigan in the first three weeks and Oregon and Arizona State before the month of September ends. The season itself ends against the Pac-10 favorites, Washington and USC, and by then the Bruins could be bemoaning the schedule fates that kept them from playing Washington State for a second straight year.
Bottom line: There's considerable talent on this team, enough to contend for the Pac-10 title if a quarterback emerges. The Bruins should have used up all their bad luck with injuries last season, but the upside of that was that it pushed some young players into playing time, and now that will be a benefit. With only 12 scholarship seniors, and only five of those likely to start, the Bruins may be a year away from being Rose Bowl contenders, but a first-division finish and a bowl appearance seem likely.

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Total package: *Coleman possesses a combination of strength, power, speed and size that makes him one of the nation's best defensive ends.*

PACIFIC-10

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brian Poli-Dixon	6-5	211	Jr.	Jon Dubravac	6-4	213	Jr.
T	Bryce Bohlander	6-6	272	So.	Josh Webb	6-6	295	Sr.
G	**Oscar Cabrera**	**6-4**	**303**	**Sr.**	*Shane Lehmann	6-5	282	Fr.
C	**Troy Danoff**	**6-4**	**294**	**Jr.**	*Steve Sanchez	6-4	291	Fr.
G	**Brian Polak**	**6-4**	**330**	**Sr.**	**Blake Worley**	**6-6**	**302**	**So.**
T	**Mike Saffer**	**6-5**	**304**	**So.**	Micah Webb	6-6	290	Sr.
TE	**Gabe Crecion**	**6-5**	**241**	**Sr.**	Bryan Fletcher	6-5	230	Jr.
WR	Freddie Mitchell	6-0	183	Jr.	Paul Nelson	6-2	199	So.
QB	**Cory Paus**	**6-2**	**209**	**So.**	Ryan McCann	6-4	218	So.
RB	DeShaun Foster	6-1	210	Jr.	Jermaine Lewis	5-7	174	Sr.
FB	Matt Stanley	6-3	242	Jr.	Chris Jackson	6-3	261	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Kenyon Coleman**	**6-6**	**278**	**Sr.**	Sean Phillips	6-5	294	So.
T	*Rodney Leisle	6-4	293	Fr.	Anthony Fletcher	6-4	292	Jr.
T	**Ken Kocher**	**6-4**	**311**	**Jr.**	Steve Morgan	6-3	285	So.
E	**Rusty Williams**	**6-4**	**259**	**So.**	Stephen Sua	6-2	267	Jr.
OLB	**Tony White**	**6-1**	**247**	**Sr.**	Santi Hall	6-2	252	Jr.
MLB	**Robert Thomas**	**6-2**	**239**	**Jr.**	**Tony White**	**6-1**	**247**	**Sr.**
OLB	**Ryan Nece**	**6-2**	**224**	**Jr.**	Marcus Reese	6-2	208	So.
CB	Jason Bell	6-0	182	Sr.	Julius Williams	6-0	186	Jr.
SS	Marques Anderson	6-0	206	Jr.	*Kevin Brant	5-11	191	Fr.
FS	Jason Zdenek	6-0	190	Sr.	**Lovell Houston**	**6-1**	**183**	**So.**
CB	**Ricky Manning, Jr.**	**5-9**	**178**	**So.**	Joe Hunter	5-11	169	So.

Special Teams

K	Chris Griffith	6-2	193	So.	P	Nate Fikse	5-9	183	So.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

4 Oregon

NATIONAL RANK 27

Coach: Mike Bellotti (38-20, 5 years; 61-45-2 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Jeff Tedford (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Nick Aliotti (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 14
Lettermen lost: 26
Lettermen returning: 41
Site: Eugene, Ore.
Stadium: Autzen (turf, 41,698)
Last league title won: 1994
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 22
1999 record: 9-3 (beat Minnesota in Sun Bowl). Pac-10: 6-2/T2nd

1999 Results

at Michigan St., L, 27-20
Texas-El Paso, W, 47-28
Nevada, W, 72-10
USC, W, 33-30 3 OT
at Washington, L, 34-20
at UCLA, L, 34-29
at Arizona, W, 44-41
Arizona State, W, 20-17
Washington St., W, 52-10
at California, W, 24-19
Oregon State, W, 25-14
Minnesota, W, 24-20

Schedule

S2—Nevada
S9—at Wisconsin
S16—Idaho
S23—UCLA
S30—Washington
O14—at USC
O21—Arizona
O28—at Arizona State
N4—at Washington State
N11—California
N18—at Oregon State

Offensive philosophy: The Ducks like to preach balance and variety in their attack, but there may be a definite lean toward the pass over the run, at least early in the season with two quarterbacks (Joey Harrington and A.J. Feeley) who have starting experience and the usual host of talented wide receivers. The Ducks will still want to run, but who will do the running?

Offensive stars: Harrington and Feeley traded the starting role last season and combined for more than 3,000 yards, and the receivers are led by senior Marshaun Tucker and sophomore Keenan Howry. Tucker caught more passes last season than any previous junior college transfer, and Howry finished a catch short of the school's freshman record for receptions.

Offensive concerns: There is no experience beyond the starters on the line, and at tailback there's no experience, period, unless sophomore Allan Amundson's surgically repaired ankle is ready or junior Herman Ho-Ching has resurrected himself academically. The incoming recruits include Maurice Morris, rated the top junior college tailback in the country last fall.

Defensive philosophy: The Ducks emphasize two things: Stop the run and don't get beat deep on pass plays. They should be able to do both better with a group of veterans returning up front and junior CB Rashad Bauman back in the lineup after missing last season with a knee injury.

Defensive stars: Not many starters return, but DE Saul Patu and ILB Matt Smith are two of the best in the league at their positions. Bauman was a standout two years ago and is a good one-on-one cover man.

Defensive concerns: Are the tackles strong enough? Zack Freiter has yet to make it through a season injury-free, and junior college All-American James Rose was a disappointment in his first season. Of more concern is filling the two safety spots vacated by playmakers Michael Fletcher and Brandon McLemore. Senior Gary Barker will fill one of those spots.

Special teams: The Ducks again should be among the league's best, with P Kurtis Doerr returning for his final season after being voted second team all-league last year. Josh Frankel is expected to take over the kicking duties after making 11-of-14 field goals last year when pressed into action after an injury. Oregon is almost as good returning kicks, finishing first in the league in kickoff returns and third in punt returns last year. Senior WR Sonny Cook averaged 26.8 yards on kickoff returns last season.

Head coach: Mike Bellotti has made Oregon the winningest program in the league in his five years as head coach, prompting an unprecedented upgrading of the football facilities. The school built the league's first indoor practice facility, and a 25 percent expansion of seating at Autzen Stadium is in the works. Bellotti received a well-deserved contract extension last fall.

Schedule: It's the usual mix early for the Ducks, two non-league games they should win easily (Nevada and Idaho) and what's become an annual matchup with the Big Ten, this year at Wisconsin. The league season opens with crucial home games against UCLA and Washington, the only Pac-10 teams that beat Oregon last year. The Ducks again should finish with a flourish with a November schedule of Washington State, California and Oregon State. Oregon is 10-3 against those three since Bellotti took over as coach.

Bottom line: There is a question about the running game, but if Morris is as successful as previous junior college transfers Saladin McCullough and Reuben Droughns, the offense won't skip a beat. The Ducks will carry a six-game winning streak and a 14-game home winning streak that dates back to a 1997 loss to UCLA into their opener against Nevada. If those two streaks are extended through September, this should be a year the Ducks contend for the Pac-10 title. If not, expect at least another bowl appearance, which would be the school's sixth in seven years.

JOHN GIUSTINA / OREGON

Yin and yang: *Although Feeley passed for more yards last season, Harrington (above) had the better touchdown-to-interception ratio.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Marshaun Tucker	5-10	186	Sr.	*Samie Parker	5-10	167	Fr.
T	Al Cotton	6-3	300	Jr.	Phil Finzer	6-5	305	So.
G	**Jim Adams**	**6-4**	**285**	**Jr.**	Josh Jones	6-2	286	So.
C	**Ryan Schmid**	**6-4**	**270**	**Jr.**	Jeff Austin	6-1	265	Sr.
G	Corey Chambers	6-4	310	So.	*Joey Forster	6-4	280	Fr.
T	**Lee Gundy**	**6-6**	**325**	**Sr.**	Mike Belisle	6-5	315	So.
TE	Justin Peelle	6-5	245	Jr.	**Enyi Nwamuo**	**6-4**	**248**	**Sr.**
WR	**Keenan Howry**	**5-10**	**165**	**So.**	Ray Brust	6-3	220	Sr.
QB	Joey Harrington	6-4	210	Jr.	**A.J. Feeley**	**6-4**	**220**	**Sr.**
RB	Maurice Morris	6-0	205	Jr.	Allan Amundson	5-9	180	So.
FB	Chad Chance	6-2	230	Sr.	Josh Line	6-2	237	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Quinn Dorsey	6-4	240	So.	Kevin Mack	6-2	245	Fr.
T	**Jason Nikolao**	**6-2**	**300**	**Sr.**	Zack Freiter	6-3	275	Jr.
T	Jed Boice	6-4	295	Sr.	James Rose	6-4	290	Sr.
E	Saul Patu	6-3	265	Sr.	Ed Wangler	6-4	245	So.
OLB	Garrett Sabol	6-0	211	Sr.	Wesly Mallard	6-2	212	Jr.
ILB	**Matt Smith**	**6-4**	**247**	**Sr.**	*Josh Rogers	6-3	255	Fr.
ILB	Garrett Graham	6-4	230	So.	Michael Callier	6-0	220	Sr.
CB	Rashad Bauman	5-8	185	Jr.	Jermaine Hanspard	5-11	190	Sr.
SS	Ryan Mitchell	6-0	180	Sr.	Steve Smith	6-1	193	Jr.
FS	Gary Barker	6-0	205	Sr.	Rasuli Webster	6-0	200	So.
CB	**Brian Johnson**	**5-9**	**171**	**Sr.**	Gary McGraw	5-9	180	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Josh Frankel**	**5-8**	**175**	**Sr.**	Dan Katz	6-1	170	Sr.	P	**Kurtis Doerr**	**6-2**	**215**	**Sr.**	*Gary Daniels	6-2	164	Fr.

5 Arizona State

NATIONAL RANK 33

Coach: Bruce Snyder (52-39, 8 years; 120-100-5 overall, 20 years)
Offensive coordinator: John Pettas (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Phil Snow (8th season)
Offensive scheme: I and split backs
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 47
Site: Tempe, Ariz.
Stadium: Sun Devil (grass, 73,379)
Last league title won: 1996
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 55
1999 record: 6-6 (lost to Wake Forest in Aloha Bowl). Pac-10: 5-3/4th

1999 Results

Texas Tech, W, 31-13
New Mexico State, L, 35-7
at California, L, 24-23
UCLA, W, 28-27
at Notre Dame, L, 48-17
at Washington, W, 28-7
Washington St., W, 33-21
at Oregon, L, 20-17
at USC, W, 26-16
Stanford, L, 50-30
Arizona, W, 42-27
Wake Forest, L, 23-3

Schedule

A31—at San Diego State
S16—Colorado State
S23—Utah State
S30—at UCLA
O7—California
O14—Washington
O21—at Washington State
O28—Oregon
N4—USC
N11—at Stanford
N24—at Arizona

Offensive philosophy: There's nothing the Sun Devils would rather do than overpower teams, and this squad is built for that. The offensive line is headed by T Victor Leyva and C Scott Peters; they'll lead a running game that will feature RB Delvon Flowers. The question for the Sun Devils is whether they will be balanced enough so opponents can't load up to stop the run.

Offensive stars: The nation's best tight end may be junior Todd Heap, who made one great catch after another in 1999. He should surpass last season's 50 receptions for 793 yards. Behind that offensive line, Flowers is likely to match the 1,085 yards gained by J.R. Redmond last season. Flowers can be as exciting as Redmond without all of the off-field problems.

Offensive concerns: Is QB Ryan Kealy fully recovered from his latest knee surgery? And is WR Richard Williams the only receiving threat on the outside? If Kealy is hampered, or goes down again, the Sun Devils will lose not only their senior leader but a passer who completed 55 percent of his attempts last season. For Kealy to repeat that success, the Sun Devils will need to find another wideout to keep defenses from concentrating too much on Heap.

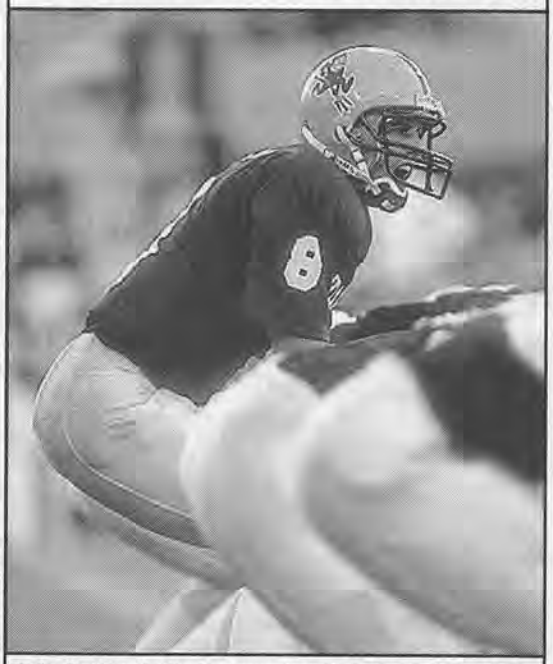
Defensive philosophy: The Sun Devils would prefer to be physical up front and gamble in the secondary, but those might be tough assignments with a defensive line that needs to be reconstructed and two cornerbacks who must be found. The safeties—there are more than a couple of good ones to contend for starting spots—offer the athleticism to help out in both areas. The linebackers should be a good fit for an attacking style of defense.

Defensive stars: Adam Archuleta on the outside and Solomon Bates in the middle are as good a pair of linebackers as any in the league. They'll need to be the building blocks for the defense as the Sun Devils try to fill in the gaps in front and behind them.

Defensive concerns: Other than 6-8 Quincy Yancy, there's no experience on the front line. One of the 310-pound junior college transfers, Paul Glass or Danny Masaniai, needs to become an immediate impact player. Keep an eye on Glass, as he could be a special talent. Two corners are needed, as well as a replacement for star LB Mason Unck, who blew out his knee in spring practice.

Special teams: Sophomore Mike Barth and freshman Travis Cloyd will compete for the kicking job, a sore spot for the Sun Devils last year. Nick Murphy, who was solid if not spectacular in '99, will handle the punting. Most teams would rue losing a return man such as Redmond, but the players who backed him up at tailback should fill in well on returns—Flowers on kickoffs and Davaren Hightower on punts.

Head coach: Bruce Snyder starts his ninth year at ASU with a .571 winning percentage but with a fair amount of grumbling about the job he's doing. That might seem odd, except the Sun Devils are 11-12 over the past two seasons. Though last year ended in a bowl appearance, it was a disheartening 23-3 loss to Wake Forest. And remember, Arizona State was in the Rose Bowl race until suffering a 50-30 defeat at home to eventual league champ Stanford.



JASON WISE FOR TSN

Bedeviled Devil: *Talent has never been the issue with Kealy, entering his fourth year as Arizona State's starting quarterback. Health has.*

Schedule: The non-league games, against San Diego State, Colorado State and Utah State, appear winnable, but then didn't a home game last season against New Mexico State? Oddly, the Sun Devils have a week off after their opener at San Diego State, which means they then will play on nine consecutive Saturdays, including matchups with fellow title contenders Oregon and USC back-to-back late in the season.

Bottom line: There are many questions—Kealy's injury, wide receiver, defensive line—but lots of talent, too. This is a team that should play in a bowl game again, but it will need some come-through performances in a few places to make it the bowl game of the Pac-10 champion.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Richard Williams**	**6-0**	**170**	**Sr.**	Ryan Dennard	6-4	212	Jr.
T	**Levi Jones**	**6-6**	**305**	**Jr.**	Travis Scott	6-6	300	Jr.
G	**Kenneth Williamson**	**6-4**	**314**	**Sr.**	*Marquise Muldrow	6-3	327	Sr.
C	**Scott Peters**	**6-3**	**312**	**Jr.**	*Regis Crawford	6-3	291	Fr.
G	**Kyle Kosier**	**6-6**	**290**	**Jr.**	Marquise Muldrow	6-3	327	Sr.
T	**Victor Leyva**	**6-4**	**303**	**Sr.**	*Brandon Macias	6-7	320	Fr.
TE	**Todd Heap**	**6-5**	**232**	**Jr.**	Jason Moore	6-6	239	Sr.
WR	Shaun McDonald	5-9	170	So.	Donnie O'Neal	6-2	185	Jr.
QB	**Ryan Kealy**	**6-2**	**198**	**Sr.**	*Jeff Krohn	6-2	178	Fr.
RB	Delvon Flowers	5-11	185	Sr.	Davaren Hightower	6-1	214	Jr.
FB	Stephen Trejo	6-3	250	Sr.	Darrel Turner	6-0	237	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Quincy Yancy**	**6-8**	**262**	**Sr.**	*Brian Montesanto	6-6	232	Fr.
T	Danny Masaniai	6-3	310	Jr.	Kurt Wallin	6-2	273	Jr.
T	Tommie Townsend	6-2	290	Jr.	James Beal	6-1	277	So.
E	Mike Pinkard	6-5	243	So.	Paul Glass	6-7	310	Jr.
OLB	Eric Fields	6-3	231	Jr.	Elza Gennicks	6-5	230	Jr.
MLB	**Solomon Bates**	**6-2**	**251**	**So.**	Josh Amobi	6-2	207	So.
OLB	**Adam Archuleta**	**6-0**	**213**	**Sr.**	Eric Fields	6-3	231	Jr.
CB	Machtier Clay	5-11	171	So.	Courtney Palmore	5-11	185	Jr.
SS	**Willie Daniel**	**6-0**	**203**	**Jr.**	Patrick Wilson	5-10	195	So.
FS	**Alfred Williams**	**6-1**	**199**	**So.**	Craig Koontz	6-0	192	Sr.
CB	Nijrell Eason	6-1	204	Sr.	Kenny Williams	5-11	190	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Mike Barth**	**6-0**	**201**	**So.**	**P**	**Nick Murphy**	**6-0**	**190**	**Jr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

6 Oregon State

NATIONAL RANK 49

Coach: Dennis Erickson (7-5, 1 year; 120-45-1 overall, 14 years)
Offensive coordinator: Tim Lappano (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Craig Bray (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 23
Lettermen returning: 56
Site: Corvallis, Ore.
Stadium: Parker (turf, 35,362)
Last league title won: 1964
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 43
1999 record: 7-5 (lost to Hawaii in Oahu Bowl. Pac-10: 4-4/5th

1999 Results

at Nevada, W, 28-13
Fresno State, W, 46-23
Geo. Southern, W, 48-41
at USC, L, 37-29
Washington, L, 47-21
at Stanford, L, 21-17
UCLA, W, 55-7
at Wash. State, W, 27-13
California, W, 17-7
Arizona, W, 28-20
at Oregon, L, 25-14
at Hawaii, L, 23-17

Schedule

S2—Eastern Washington
S9—at New Mexico
S23—San Diego State
S30—USC
O7—at Washington
O14—Stanford
O21—at UCLA
O28—Washington State
N4—at California
N11—at Arizona
N18—Oregon

Offensive philosophy: Dennis Erickson likes to spread the defense out, then get the ball to a receiver on a quick rout or bust the tailback through the line. Even in their first year of doing it, the Beavers learned it well enough to finish 10th in the nation in total offense.
Offensive stars: Two years into his college career, RB Ken Simonton is only 40 yards short of becoming OSU's career rushing leader. Another season like 1999—the best ever for a Pac-10 sophomore with 1,329 yards—would put him on the verge of being only the sixth Pac-10 player to rush for 4,000 yards in a career. And Simonton could have another season after this one.
Offensive concerns: For a team that throws so much and gained over 3,000 yards passing last season, it seems odd to say but the Beavers weren't happy with the play of their receivers. There were simply too many drops and sometimes too much difficulty getting open, though some of that can be traced to defenses not fully respecting QB Jonathan Smith's ability to throw the long ball, which is one very good reason that redshirt freshman Shayne House could eventually win the job. If returning starters Robert Prescott and T.J. Houshmandzadeh don't step up their play at receiver, it'll be up to speedster Monjero Jones and JC transfer Chad Johnson to take over the key roles.
Defensive philosophy: The Beavers like as much speed and quickness on the field as possible to attack opposing offenses, and it works well unless they match up against a team that can outmuscle them. With quickness in the front four and linebackers able to blitz, it meant a good pass rush but a suspect run defense.
Defensive stars: Sophomore CB Dennis Weathersby, heads a secondary where each returning player made 12 starts last year. There's also senior SS Terrence Carroll, a standout in 1999 even if it was a disappointing season by his standards.
Defensive concerns: Again, how do the Beavers stand up in the front line, especially after having to replace MLB Jonathan Jackson, last season's top tackler? Opponents know how good the secondary will be, so they're likely to try running the ball.
Special teams: Both the kicking and punting should be improved. Mike Fessler averaged 39.7 yards per punt in '99, but his lack of height is a problem. Sophomore K Ryan Cesca was only 7-of-15 on field goals and converted only one of his final seven attempts. OSU should be better on returns with Jones available all season after being out early last fall with an injury.
Head coach: Can there be a bigger hero in Corvallis than Erickson? In his first season, he led the Beavers to their first winning season since 1970 and their first bowl game since the 1965 Rose Bowl, though a 23-17 loss to Hawaii in the Oahu Bowl did put a damper on the finish. Erickson erased some of that disappointment by signing a contract extension, and the OSU administration made him happier by announcing plans to construct an indoor practice facility, one of his most urgent requests.
Schedule: The non-league schedule of Eastern Washington, New Mexico and San Diego State isn't as easy as last year, but it still should put the Beavers halfway to another winning season before their first league game. Then it becomes challenging with the first three Pac-10 games against this year's favorites, USC and Washington, and last year's champion, Stanford. At least the Trojans and Cardinal have to play at Corvallis, where the Beavers were 5-1 last year.
Bottom line: The Beavers aren't going to surprise any opponent this season, and they're likely to face a much better UCLA team—and on the road—than the group they routed, 55-7, as the high point of 1999. It could be that the Beavers will again be 3-3 when they play the Bruins, meaning it may take a late-season run against Washington State, California and Arizona to have that sixth win before the finale against Oregon. They should get there, and maybe another bowl, too.

OREGON STATE

Next up: *Simonton owns Pac-10 records for most yards rushing by a freshman and a sophomore. The junior-year record is 1,875 yards.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Monjero Jones	6-0	165	Sr.	Shawn Kintner	6-3	194	So.
T	Vincent Sandoval	6-4	287	Jr.	Paul Davidian	6-4	291	Jr.
G	**Robert Sykes**	**6-5**	**338**	**Sr.**	Jared Cornell	6-3	321	Sr.
C	Chris Gibson	6-3	273	Jr.	Dustin Janz	6-3	297	Jr.
G	**Keith DiDomenico**	**6-5**	**320**	**Sr.**	Jared Cornell	6-3	321	Sr.
T	**Mitch White**	**6-5**	**308**	**Sr.**	Mike Kuykendall	6-6	325	So.
TE	Martin Maurer	6-4	241	Sr.	Bennie Johnson	6-2	253	Sr.
WR	T.J. Houshmandzadeh	6-2	202	Sr.	Seth Trimmer	6-5	201	So.
WR	**Robert Prescott**	**5-11**	**188**	**Sr.**	*James Newson	6-1	196	Fr.
QB	**Jonathan Smith**	**5-10**	**194**	**Jr.**	*Shayne House	6-4	204	Fr.
RB	**Ken Simonton**	**5-7**	**175**	**Jr.**	Patrick McCall	5-10	198	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold **Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**DeLawrence Grant**	**6-3**	**261**	**Sr.**	Kyle Rosselle	6-4	249	Jr.
T	Eric Manning	6-1	294	So.	Brian Tulikihihifo	6-4	275	Jr.
T	Ryan Atkinson	6-6	264	Sr.	Charles O'Neal	6-2	288	Sr.
E	LaDairis Jackson	6-3	254	Sr.	Sefa O'Reilly	6-2	228	Sr.
OLB	**Darnell Robinson**	**6-0**	**216**	**Sr.**	*Noah Happe	6-5	216	Fr.
MLB	Tevita Moala	5-10	213	Sr.	*Richard Seigler	6-3	210	Fr.
OLB	**James Allen**	**6-3**	**219**	**Jr.**	Nick Barnett	6-2	196	So.
CB	**K. Heyward-Johnson**	**5-11**	**179**	**Sr.**	Ricky Walker	5-11	185	Sr.
SS	**Terrence Carroll**	**6-0**	**209**	**Sr.**	Terrell Roberts	5-9	227	So.
FS	**Calvin Carlyle**	**6-0**	**184**	**Jr.**	Jake Cookus	5-10	186	Jr.
CB	**Dennis Weathersby**	**6-1**	**203**	**So.**	Shamon Jamerson	5-11	182	So.

Special Teams

K	**Ryan Cesca**	**5-8**	**167**	**So.**	P	**Mike Fessler**	**5-11**	**213**	**Sr.**

More on Oregon State at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/oregonstate/ AOL keyword: TSN

7 Stanford

NATIONAL RANK 60

Coach: Tyrone Willingham (30-27-1, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bill Diedreick (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Kent Baer (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 39
Site: Stanford, Calif.
Stadium: Stanford (grass, 85,500)
Last league title won: 1999
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 26
1999 record: 8-4 (lost to Wisconsin in Rose Bowl). Pac-10: 7-1/1st

1999 Results

at Texas, L, 69-17
Washington St., W, 54-17
at Arizona, W, 50-22
UCLA, W, 42-32
San Jose State, L, 44-39
Oregon State, W, 21-17
at USC, W, 35-31
at Washington, L, 35-30
at Arizona State, W, 50-30
California, W, 31-13
Notre Dame, W, 40-37
Wisconsin, L, 17-9

Schedule

S2—at Washington State
S9—San Jose State
S16—Texas
S30—Arizona
O7—at Notre Dame
O14—at Oregon State
O21—USC
O28—Washington
N4—at UCLA
N11—Arizona State
N18—at California

Offensive philosophy: No matter who replaces Todd Husak at quarterback, this isn't likely to be quite the wide-open passing team it was last season. For one thing, Troy Walters, the league's all-time leading receiver, and Husak graduated. For another, the Cardinal should be a better running team.

Offensive stars: At Stanford, it's usually the quarterback—but who will that be? If Joe Borchard, as expected, leaves to pursue a baseball career, it would be senior Randy Fasani, who played more at other positions in 1999, or redshirt freshman Chris Lewis. Whoever the choice may be, he has a premier target in DeRonnie Pitts, the league's leading returning receiver.

Offensive concerns: Aside from Husak and Walters, the Cardinal lost standout C Mike McLaughlin and two other line starters, but with returning Gs Zack Quaccia and Eric Heitmann, there's a solid base of blockers. It might be, though, that Kwame Harris, the league's best recruit, will need to start right away at tackle. There's also the desire to have a second receiver step up to take some pressure off Pitts.

Defensive philosophy: The Cardinal likes to stop the run and put pressure on the passer. It's a good thing, considering the secondary was burned for 305 yards per game last season. Stanford again will attempt to make opposing offenses one-dimensional by playing the run first and then help the secondary by going after the passer.

Defensive stars: DT Willie Howard was selected by his peers as the best defensive lineman in the league in 1999. His presence means there are fewer blockers to worry about LB Riall Johnson on the outside. There's another standout at safety in Tank Williams, who figures to be busy helping out the rest of the secondary.

Defensive concerns: The secondary, again. Even with Howard and Johnson applying pressure, opposing passers completed 54 percent of their attempts against Stanford last season, averaging 8.0 yards per attempt and 15.0 yards per completion. Was it any wonder Stanford gave up more points (31.5) than any team in the Pac-10? Still, the Cardinal won the league championship for the first time since 1992.

Special teams: All-league K Mike Biselli returns after converting 14-of-17 field goal attempts last season. Also returning is P Sean Tolpinrud, though his job security isn't great after finishing last in the league in punting average (36.4) last year. Ryan Wells returns to handle kickoffs after averaging 27.5 yards last season, but who replaces Walters on punts is a major question.

Head coach: Tyrone Willingham took Stanford to bowl games in his first two years (1995 and '96) and then had consecutive losing seasons (1997, '98). Just about the time questions arose about his future after last year's disastrous start—a 69-17 loss at Texas—Willingham turned the team around and into conference champions, earning Stanford's first Rose Bowl appearance in 28 years. That bought him considerable security, including a raise and contract extension.

Schedule: Well, at least Texas comes to Stanford, and it's the Cardinal's third game instead of the first. The opener is at Washington State. That, followed by a home game against San Jose State (yes, we know SJS has beaten Stanford the past two years), should allow the new quarterback time to settle in before the Cardinal hosts the Longhorns. After consecutive October road games at Notre Dame and Oregon State, Stanford won't leave the state of California in the final five weeks, though the home games are against USC, Washington and Arizona State.

Bottom line: This might be the toughest team in the league to figure. There was every reason to think it was headed for a miserable 1999, but it began 2000 playing in the Rose Bowl. A repeat performance is very unlikely, but a winning season and another bowl certainly are within reach if a quarterback emerges and the defense is a little stronger.

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Precocious Cardinal: *Kerry Carter, a running back with power, was one of just two true freshmen to play for Stanford last season.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**DeRonnie Pitts**	**5-11**	**195**	**Sr.**	Caleb Bowman	6-2	175	Jr.
T	Paul Weinacht	6-5	280	Jr.	*Kirk Chambers	6-6	295	Fr.
G	**Zack Quaccia**	**6-4**	**290**	**Sr.**	Edmond O'Neal	6-4	280	So.
C	Mike Holman	6-3	290	So.	Tom Kolich	6-6	245	Jr.
G	**Eric Heitmann**	**6-4**	**285**	**Jr.**	Damion Tinsley	6-4	285	Sr.
T	**Greg Schindler**	**6-6**	**300**	**Jr.**	Ben Garrison	6-8	285	Sr.
TE	**Russell Stewart**	**6-5**	**245**	**Sr.**	Matt Wright	6-5	250	Sr.
WR	Ryan Wells	6-0	190	Jr.	Luke Powell	5-8	165	So.
QB	Joe Borchard	6-4	225	Sr.	Randy Fasani	6-4	235	Sr.
RB	**Brian Allen**	**5-10**	**190**	**Jr.**	Kerry Carter	6-2	225	So.
FB	**Casey Moore**	**6-2**	**235**	**Jr.**	Emory Brock	5-11	215	Sr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Sam Benner**	**6-5**	**275**	**Sr.**	Matt Leonard	6-4	290	Jr.
T	**Willie Howard**	**6-4**	**290**	**Sr.**	Travis Pfeifer	6-2	270	Sr.
NT	Craig Albrecht	6-5	295	Jr.	Trey Freeman	6-3	312	Jr.
E	**Austin Lee**	**6-6**	**275**	**Sr.**	Marcus Hoover	6-4	260	Sr.
OLB	**Riall Johnson**	**6-3**	**240**	**Sr.**	Scott Giles	6-4	215	Jr.
ILB	Brian Gaffney	6-1	220	So.	Matt Friedrichs	6-0	230	Sr.
ILB	Anthony Gabriel	6-3	235	Sr.	Mike Burke	6-1	220	Sr.
CB	Ruben Carter	5-8	170	Sr.	Garry Cobb	5-11	180	Jr.
SS	Aaron Focht	5-10	190	Sr.	Simba Hodari	6-1	195	Sr.
FS	**Tank Williams**	**6-3**	**210**	**Jr.**	Aaron Focht	5-10	190	Sr.
CB	Brian Taylor	6-0	180	Jr.	Ryan Fernandez	5-11	170	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Mike Biselli**	**5-10**	**180**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Sean Tolpinrud**	**6-2**	**190**	**Sr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

8 Arizona

NATIONAL RANK 64

Coach: Dick Tomey (90-58-4, 13 years; 153-104-7 overall, 23 years)
Offensive coordinator: Dino Babers (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Rich Ellerson (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Flex
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 41
Site: Tucson, Ariz.
Stadium: Arizona (grass, 56,500)
Last league title won: 1993 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 60
1999 record: 6-6. Pac-10: 3-5/T6th

1999 Results

at Penn State, L, 41-7
at TCU, W, 35-31
Middle Tenn. St., W, 34-19
Stanford, L, 50-22
at Wash. St., W, 30-24
USC, W, 31-24
Texas-El Paso, W, 34-21
Oregon, L, 44-41
at UCLA, W, 33-7
Washington, L, 33-25
at Oregon State, L, 28-20
at Arizona State, L, 42-27

Schedule

S2—at Utah
S9—Ohio State
S16—San Diego State
S30—at Stanford
O7—at USC
O14—Washington State
O21—at Oregon
O28—UCLA
N4—at Washington
N11—Oregon State
N24—Arizona State

Offensive philosophy: At their best, the Wildcats pound away at a defense with a strong running game and then bust a big play when a tackle is missed or some misdirection fools the defenders. It was a great system with RB Trung Canidate able to do the pounding or the breaking away, especially with the threat of Dennis Northcutt on the outside, as a receiver or taking a handoff on a reverse. Does it work as well with those game-breakers gone?

Offensive stars: The two-quarterback system is down to one in Ortege Jenkins, but is that all bad? In a relief role last season, Jenkins completed a league-high 60.3 percent of his passes and had an efficiency rating of 144.7, a better number than any of the Pac-10's full-season starters. All-league candidates Bruce Wiggins and Steven Grace anchor the line, so there should be openings to run and time to pass for Jenkins.

Offensive concerns: The Wildcats weren't deep in receivers last season, and with Northcutt gone it means sophomore Bobby Wade needs to step up. And who replaces Canidate? Sophomore Leo Mills arrived with great credentials, and senior Leon Callen was battling Canidate for the starting job a couple of years ago until a knee injury knocked him out of the competition. It may be they share the duties, possibly even with Larry Croom, another sophomore.

Defensive philosophy: The Wildcats like to undo an offense before it gets started by using an odd front to confuse offensive linemen and then letting a pair of inside linebackers roam unblocked to make plays. If the talent is there, Arizona would prefer to play man coverage in the secondary, freeing up more defenders to help stop the run.

Defensive stars: Joe Tafoya and Keoni Fraser anchor the line. Tafoya tied for third in the Pac-10 in sacks last season with 10, and he's likely to be turned loose even more often this year, especially if Fraser becomes an equally dominant force on the inside.

Defensive concerns: The Wildcats have to rebuild most of their back seven, notably finding a linebacker to replace Marcus Bell in the middle. One possibility is Lance Briggs. The Wildcats also brought in junior college teammates Jermaine Chatman and David Crockett in hopes of resurrecting a secondary that had the worst efficiency rating in the league last season.

Special teams: Once the pride of the league, the Arizona kicking teams need work. P Chris Palic returns, but he was inconsistent last year. After a pair of kickers converted an anemic 6-of-19 field goals, the Wildcats recruited one of the nation's top junior college kickers in Tommy Kirovski, but he left in the spring. Losing Northcutt is a blow to the return game, but Croom or one of the other tailbacks should be a threat on kickoffs. Wade is a possibility to return kickoffs or punts.

Head coach: Only two years ago, Dick Tomey appeared to be in some trouble, but the Wildcats had a 12-1 season that culminated in the Holiday Bowl win over Nebraska. That was forgotten in the disappointment of last year's 6-6 finish. Tomey is the dean of Pac-10 coaches, but his young team probably needs to show significant signs of hope this season for his tenure to stretch much longer.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

It's mine: *After sharing the job for two seasons, Jenkins, now a senior, is the Wildcats' undisputed starting quarterback.*

Schedule: The opener at Utah is a key to the season, considering that Ohio State comes to Tucson the next weekend. There's a week off between the non-league finale against San Diego State and the start of the Pac-10 season, and that's good planning because the conference schedule opens with road games at defending champ Stanford and USC, this year's favorite.

Bottom line: The Wildcats have as many question marks as any Pac-10 team, and the tendency is to write them off and come back a year later, when some of their young players have had time to mature. But Tomey's teams are usually at their best when the least is expected. Expect some surprises out of Arizona, but a first-division finish is probably out of reach.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Bobby Wade	5-11	180	So.	Malosi Leonard	6-2	215	Jr.
T	**Makoa Freitas**	**6-4**	**301**	**Jr.**	Darren Safranek	6-7	260	So.
G	**Steven Grace**	**6-3**	**286**	**Jr.**	David Floyd	6-3	270	Sr.
C	**Bruce Wiggins**	**6-3**	**280**	**Sr.**	**Steven Grace**	**6-3**	**286**	**Jr.**
G	Aaron Higginbotham	6-5	286	So.	Kevin Barry	6-4	325	Jr.
T	**Marques McFadden**	**6-4**	**303**	**Sr.**	Makai Freitas	6-7	285	Sr.
TE	**Brandon Manumaleuna**	**6-2**	**288**	**Sr.**	James Hugo	6-6	250	So.
WR	Brad Brennan	5-11	173	Sr.	Brandon Marshall	6-0	180	Jr.
QB	**Ortege Jenkins**	**6-2**	**216**	**Sr.**	Jason Johnson	6-2	207	So.
RB	Leon Callen	5-9	188	Sr.	Leo Mills	5-11	207	So.
HB	**Eli Wnek**	**6-3**	**240**	**So.**	Wilton Paogofie	5-9	225	Sr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Joe Tafoya**	**6-4**	**255**	**Sr.**	**Alex Luna**	**6-0**	**222**	**Jr.**
T	**Keoni Fraser**	**6-1**	**282**	**Jr.**	Young Thompson	6-2	300	So.
T	Anthony Thomas	6-1	282	Jr.	Ben Alualu	6-0	266	So.
E	Idris Haroon	6-2	265	Sr.	Tony Thompson	6-2	235	Jr.
OLB	Adrian Koch	5-9	216	Sr.	*Joe Siofele	6-2	235	Fr.
ILB	Lance Briggs	6-2	220	So.	Shelton Ross	6-0	220	Sr.
ILB	Antonio Pierce	6-1	230	Sr.	Stadford Glover	6-0	236	Sr.
CB	David Laudermilk	6-1	170	So.	Anthony Banks	5-11	155	Jr.
SS	Brandon Nash	6-1	212	So.	Zaharius Johnson	5-11	188	Jr.
FS	*Jarvie Worcester	6-1	204	Fr.	*Clay Hardt	6-1	170	Fr.
CB	*Michael Jolivette	5-8	171	Fr.	Chidi Daniels	5-9	165	So.

Special Teams

K	Sean Keel	6-1	185	Jr.
P	Chris Palic	6-3	195	Jr.

9 California

NATIONAL RANK 77

Coach: Tom Holmoe (12-21, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Hagen (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Lyle Setencich (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 24
Lettermen returning: 46
Site: Berkeley, Calif.
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 74,909)
Last league title won: 1975
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 67
1999 record: 4-7. Pac-10: 3-5/T6th

1999 Results

Rutgers, W, 21-7
at Nebraska, L, 45-0
Arizona State, W, 24-23
at Washington St., L, 31-7
at BYU, L, 38-28
at UCLA, W, 17-0
Washington, L, 31-27
USC, W, 17-7
at Oregon State, L, 17-7
Oregon, L, 24-19
at Stanford, L, 31-13

Schedule

S9—Utah
S16—at Illinois
S23—at Fresno State
S30—Washington State
O7—at Arizona State
O14—UCLA
O21—at Washington
O28—at USC
N4—Oregon State
N11—at Oregon
N18—Stanford

Offensive philosophy: The assumption is the Bears would like to be balanced, and they were last year, finishing last in the Pac-10 in rushing and passing. Their pro-style attack simply needs better blockers and receivers and a more experienced quarterback than it had in 1999.

Offensive stars: The hope is that the two true freshmen who were forced to lead the way last year—RB Joe Igber and QB Kyle Boller—actually are ready for the roles this season. Igber certainly seems capable after netting 694 yards and averaging 4.7 yards per carry against defenses geared to stop the Cal running game last year.

Offensive concerns: Boller relieved one major worry by showing during spring ball that his surgically repaired throwing shoulder was OK. But the Bears need to keep the pressure off him, figuratively and literally, because Cal quarterbacks were sacked 30 times in 1999. The team signed a pair of junior college tackles, and it could be that with those two and some of the returning redshirt and true freshmen, the Bears will have almost all new faces up front. Does it mean a new look to the offense? Only if the receivers are much improved, a huge "if" considering the best of them, Michael Ainsworth, flunked out of school.

Defensive philosophy: The Bears like to get after offenses with the league's best defensive line, but there's a question of how well it will work minus playmakers Sekou Sanyika at linebacker and Deltha O'Neal at cornerback. Cal will need to be aggressive and dominating up front while the back seven is put in order.

Defensive stars: All-league performers Andre Carter at end and Jacob Waasdorp at nose tackle promise to make life miserable for offenses, just as they did last year when Cal led the Pac-10 in sacks with 51, including 11 each by Carter and Waasdorp.

Defensive concerns: Not only do the Bears need three new linebackers, but Scott Fujita, expected to replace Sanyika on the outside, might miss the season after spring neck surgery. CB Chidi Iwuoma, the team's best coverage defender and a likely replacement for O'Neal in the return game, is coming back from an ankle injury.

Special teams: There may not be a better punter in the country for distance and ability to drop the ball inside an opponent's 20-yard line than Nick Harris. He averaged 44.7 yards last year, a good thing considering Cal's anemic offense forced him to punt a league-high 85 times. Two kickers combined to miss 10-of-15 field-goal attempts and a couple of extra points, so that job is open. The return game, where O'Neal was the league's best on kickoffs and third in punts, could suffer if someone doesn't step up.

Head coach: As much as everybody from Old Blues to new players loves Tom Holmoe, Cal has averaged four wins in his first three seasons and gone 7-17 in league games. Can he weather another season like that?

Schedule: The Bears didn't overschedule themselves as badly as last year, when they played at Nebraska and BYU, but there isn't an automatic non-league win on the schedule, with games against Utah, Illinois and Fresno State, the latter two on the road. Even more difficult is the month of October, when Cal plays league contenders Arizona State, UCLA, Washington and USC on consecutive Saturdays, with only the Bruins coming to Berkeley. Somewhere in there would be a perfect time for a bye, except the Bears don't have one because they open a week later than the rest of the league, meaning Cal is the only Pac-10 team that will play on 11 consecutive Saturdays.

Bottom line: If the defense is almost as good as last year and the offense makes the expected improvements, the Bears should be interesting and competitive. But a winning season is definitely a stretch, and avoiding the Pac-10 cellar might prove difficult. That could be determined in the conference opener against Washington State. At least that game is in Berkeley.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Big shoes: *Iwuoma (above) will be expected to anchor the secondary and return a few kicks in the absence of NFL first-round pick O'Neal.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Philip Pipersburg**	**5-10**	**185**	**Sr.**	*James Smith	6-1	190	Fr.
T	**Langston Walker**	**6-8**	**330**	**Jr.**	Eddie Martinez	6-4	290	Jr.
G	**Brandon Ludwig**	**6-4**	**295**	**Jr.**	*David Hays	6-3	275	Fr.
C	**Reed Diehl**	**6-4**	**300**	**Sr.**	*Nolan Bluntzer	6-4	265	Fr.
G	**Scott Tercero**	**6-5**	**285**	**So.**	Ryan Jones	6-4	270	So.
T	*Mark Wilson	6-6	290	Fr.	Robert Truhitte	6-5	290	Sr.
TE	**Brian Surgener**	**6-4**	**235**	**Sr.**	Tom Swoboda	6-4	240	So.
WR	Sean Currin	6-1	185	Jr.	Chad Heydorff	6-1	185	Jr.
QB	**Kyle Boller**	**6-4**	**200**	**So.**	Eric Holtfreter	6-2	220	Jr.
RB	**Joe Igber**	**5-8**	**190**	**So.**	Joseph Echema	5-11	215	So.
FB	Marcus Fields	6-2	220	Jr.	Keala Keanaaina	6-3	260	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Tully Banta-Cain	6-4	240	So.	*Jahdai Pickett	6-1	285	Fr.
T	**Jacob Waasdorp**	**6-2**	**275**	**Sr.**	Tim Pompa	6-4	275	Jr.
NT	**Daniel Nwangwu**	**6-4**	**295**	**So.**	Nate DeSomber	6-4	295	Jr.
E	**Andre Carter**	**6-4**	**260**	**Sr.**	Wayne Hunter	6-6	280	So.
OLB	Calvin Hosey	6-4	240	So.	Scott Fujita	6-5	235	Jr.
ILB	J.P. Segura	6-0	230	Jr.	Jason Smith	6-0	225	Jr.
ILB	Chris Ball	6-3	215	Jr.	Marcus Daniels	6-1	235	So.
CB	LaShaun Ward	6-1	195	So.	Atari Callen	5-9	190	So.
SS	Dewey Hale	6-0	200	Jr.	Bert Watts	6-1	205	So.
FS	Nnamdi Asomugha	6-2	200	So.	David Watts	5-11	185	Sr.
CB	**Chidi Iwuoma**	**5-9**	**185**	**Sr.**	Harold Pearson	5-11	185	Sr.

Special Teams

K	Mark Jensen	6-2	200	So.	Jeremy Hershey	6-0	180	So.	**P**	**Nick Harris**	**6-3**	**220**	**Sr.**	*Tyler Fredrickson	6-3	180	Fr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

10 Washington State

NATIONAL RANK 85

Coach: Mike Price (59-66, 11 years; 105-110 overall, 19 years)
Offensive coordinator: John McDonell (7th season)
Defensive coordinator: Bill Doba (7th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 44
Site: Pullman, Wash.
Stadium: Martin (turf, 37,600)
Last league title won: 1997
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 96
1999 record: 3-9. Pac-10: 1-7/10th

1999 Results

Utah, L, 27-7
at Stanford, L, 54-17
Idaho, L, 28-17
Arizona, L, 30-24
California, W, 31-7
La.-Lafayette, W, 44-0
at Arizona State, L, 33-21
Oregon State, L, 27-13
at Oregon, L, 52-10
USC, L, 31-28
at Washington, L, 24-14
at Hawaii, W, 22-14

Schedule

S2—Stanford
S16—at Utah
S23—Idaho
S30—at California
O7—Boise State
O14—at Arizona
O21—Arizona State
O28—at Oregon State
N4—Oregon
N11—at USC
N18—Washington

Offensive philosophy: The Cougars like to spread the field with four receivers, then try to find an opening in the defense with a pass or a run. To make the offense work requires a good quarterback and more than a couple of talented receivers, something Washington State didn't have the past two seasons. Are the right people there this season?

Offensive stars: A pair of sophomores, RB Deon Burnett and WR Collin Henderson, were the best things going for WSU much of last season. Burnett's 974 rushing yards set a school freshman record, and only one returning Pac-10 player, Oregon State's Ken Simonton, had more yards in 1999. But if the Cougars feel so set with Burnett why did they sign three junior college tailbacks last winter?

Offensive concerns: The system simply doesn't work without a good quarterback, and while the candidates appear talented, sophomore Jason Gesser missed most of last season with a thumb injury and freshman Matt Kegel, a cousin of Ryan Leaf, spent 1999 as a redshirt, watching others falter at the job he wants. Beyond twins Ryan and Reed Raymond there's nothing very solid on the offensive line.

Defensive philosophy: Much like on offense, the Cougars like to attack on defense. But unlike on offense, their defense seems to have the tools to do it. And remember: an even younger group that got no help from the offense ranked fifth in the Pac-10 last year in total defense.

Defensive stars: The strength of the team is the secondary, where Ss Lamont Thompson and Billy Newman will contend for all-league honors. CBs Marcus Trufant and Chris Martin—the latter returns after missing the 1999 season for academic reasons—are equally outstanding.

Defensive concerns: The team received a huge blow over the summer when Curtis Holden, a force at middle linebacker, failed to make the grade academically. There's also a need to replace second-leading tackler Steve Gleason at outside linebacker, but 1998 starter James Price should be a leading candidate to do so after missing last year. Another big problem is on the front line, where the Cougars need to find some run stoppers so foes can't control the ball and run down the Washington State defense.

Special teams: The kicking game is up in the air, though transfer Alan Cox averaged 43 yards in his two seasons in junior college. He could end up in the mix for the kicking job, too, but junior walk-on Nick Lambert is the better bet. Henderson averaged 8.3 yards on punt returns last year, which leaves one of those swift new receivers or a backup tailback to return kickoffs.

Head coach: Mike Price isn't quite the toast of Pullman as he was after taking the Cougars to the Rose Bowl after the 1997 season. His past two teams have won one Pac-10 game in 16 tries and posted consecutive three-win seasons. With a new director of athletics and president in charge at WSU, the memories of past success aren't quite as vivid as recent failure. "We need to win, we need to go to a bowl," Price says candidly. "I am putting pressure on us to win." And so will others.

GREG GILBERT FOR TSN

Team first: *Thompson, an all-league safety in 1998, will be back at that position in 2000 after spending most of last season at cornerback.*

Schedule: It doesn't start quite as easy as the past couple of years, but there's nothing too daunting, either, especially if the Cougars can match up with defending league champion Stanford in the opener at home. Two weeks later there's a trip to Utah, followed by Idaho, California and Boise State. They'd better win early though, because four of their last five games are against Pac-10 teams that went to bowls last year.

Bottom line: The Cougs should be OK on defense, maybe very good against the pass, always a key to success in this pass-happy league. But will an offense that averaged just 20.7 points last year be any better with a rookie quarterback? Probably a little better, but not enough to result in a winning season.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Farwan Zubedi**	**5-10**	**171**	**Sr.**	Milton Wynn	6-3	205	Jr.
T	Phillip Locker	6-5	295	So.	*Billy Knotts	6-6	290	Fr.
G	Derrick Roche	6-6	265	So.	Joey Hollenbeck	6-4	288	Jr.
C	Tyler Hunt	6-3	270	So.	Erik Larson	6-4	277	Sr.
G	**Ryan Raymond**	**6-7**	**302**	**Sr.**	Brian Hollenberg	6-3	284	So.
T	**Reed Raymond**	**6-8**	**310**	**Sr.**	*Josh Parrish	6-6	288	Fr.
TE	**Russell Mizin**	**6-4**	**232**	**So.**	Josh Shavies	6-5	276	So.
WR	Marcus Williams	6-5	231	Sr.	Paul Mencke	6-5	228	Sr.
QB	Jason Gesser	6-1	200	So.	*Matt Kegel	6-5	226	Fr.
RB	**Deon Burnett**	**5-11**	**212**	**So.**	Adam Hawkins	5-10	210	Sr.
WR	**Collin Henderson**	**6-1**	**190**	**So.**	Curtis Nettles	5-7	160	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Austin Matson**	**6-3**	**262**	**Sr.**	Fred Shavies	6-1	246	So.
T	Melvin Camarena	6-2	275	Sr.	*Jeremey Williams	6-4	269	Fr.
T	**Tomasi Kongaika**	**6-1**	**306**	**So.**	*Tai Tupai	6-4	308	Fr.
E	Tupo Tuupo	6-3	260	Jr.	*Isaac Brown	6-2	225	Fr.
OLB	James Price	5-11	218	Sr.	*Al Genatone	5-11	214	Fr.
MLB	Melvin Simmons	6-1	212	So.	DeShon Weaver	5-11	234	Jr.
OLB	Raonall Smith	6-2	254	Jr.	Serign Marong	6-2	237	Jr.
CB	**Marcus Trufant**	**5-11**	**183**	**So.**	Dante Minners	5-9	187	Sr.
SS	**Billy Newman**	**5-10**	**197**	**Jr.**	*Ira Davis	6-0	200	Fr.
FS	**Lamont Thompson**	**6-2**	**208**	**Sr.**	Mory Banks	5-11	198	Sr.
CB	Chris Martin	6-0	185	Sr.	Orvaughn Underwood	5-8	175	Jr.

Special Teams

K	Nick Lambert	5-11	183	Jr.
P	Alan Cox	6-2	197	Jr.

More on Washington State at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/washingtonstate/ AOL keyword: TSN

SCOUTING THE BIG EAST

1999 proved it's not just a basketball conference anymore with Hokies playing for title

CONFERENCE RANK 5

By Michael Vega

Questions about Big East football have become a rite of media day. Since the inception of the eight-team league, members of the press have gathered round Big East commissioner Mike Tranghese and inquired about the viability of the conference as a football entity. Every year, the media always seemed to pose the same question to the commissioner: "What's wrong with Big East football?"

This year, Tranghese should not have to deal with such questions because the Big East, entering its 10th season, clearly has come into its own as a football conference.

Last season, the Big East had Virginia Tech and its scintillating quarterback, Michael Vick, to thank for that. The second-ranked Hokies carried the league's banner as its 1999 regular-season champion and earned a berth opposite top-ranked Florida State in the Bowl Championship Series title game.

The Big East sent four teams to bowls last season. Pittsburgh and Boston College scored back-to-back victories over Notre Dame to knock the Fighting Irish out of contention for one of two Big East slots in the Gator and Insight.com bowls. More important, the conference tightened its ranks when the Atlantic Coast Conference conducted a summer-long courtship of Miami only to be turned down by the Hurricanes, who were more than happy to stay put in the Big East.

Now the conference appears to be on firm footing as it gets set for the 2000 season.

Consider: Vick is a front-runner for the Heisman Trophy. A Miami team that has been gathering strength the past few years could make a run at the national title. Despite a 62-28 debacle against Colorado in the Insight.com, Boston College is a program on the rise. Only a season-ending loss at West Virginia kept Pittsburgh from a bowl game. And Syracuse seemed to survive its hiccup of a year ago, ending a turbulent '99 season with a 20-13 victory over Kentucky in the Music City Bowl.

With its CBS television contract set to expire at the end of this season, the Big East landed a seven-year, $105 million deal with ABC and ESPN, bolstering the conference's national exposure. Then, anticipating as many as four bowl-eligible teams this season, the Big East struck a deal to send one of its teams to one of the two December Hawaii bowls to face a Pac-10 team. Under the new arrangement, the Big East is guaranteed of at least four bowl slots and will get five any year Notre Dame reaches a BCS game or does not qualify for postseason action.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Take a bow: *The Big East has never looked better as a football conference, and the big reason is Vick, the best quarterback in the college game.*

It would seem ludicrous to ask what is wrong with Big East football these days. Because the answer is nothing.

Ascending: Boston College and Pittsburgh. The Eagles made a breakthrough in coach Tom O'Brien's third year and will be bolstered by the addition of a pair of strong recruiting classes. The Panthers, despite getting shut out of postseason play, were clearly improved over the 1998 season.

Descending: That loud beeping noise you heard coming from Carrier Dome last year was Syracuse backing into a bowl game after a 6-5 regular season in which the Orangemen finished below .500 (3-4) in conference play for only the second time in Paul Pasqualoni's nine-year tenure. Expect more beeping to be heard again this season.

Dream schedule: Miami. The Hurricanes have a schedule any contending team would love. They open at home against McNeese State and play just one non-league road game. Their two

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
Boston College	3	5	4	3	6	6	5	6	4	3
Miami	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Pittsburgh	5	2	5	4	5	3	2	2	6	5
Rutgers	8	6	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Syracuse	4	7	6	6	2	5	6	4	3	4
Temple	7	8	7	7	7	2	4	5	7	7
Virginia Tech	2	3	1	2	3	4	3	3	2	1
West Virginia	6	4	2	5	4	7	7	7	5	6

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-BIG EAST

First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Latef Grim, Pittsburgh	6-0	185	Sr.
WR	Santana Moss, Miami	5-10	175	Sr.
TE	L.J. Smith, Rutgers	6-4	225	Jr.
T	Anthony Lambo, Virginia Tech	6-3	283	Sr.
T	Dave Kadela, Virginia Tech	6-6	290	Sr.
G	Matt Lehr, Virginia Tech	6-2	285	Sr.
G	Paul Zukauskas, Boston College	6-6	318	Sr.
C	Rick Gilliam, West Virginia	6-6	325	Sr.
QB	Michael Vick, Virginia Tech	6-1	212	So.
RB	James Jackson, Miami	5-11	210	Sr.
RB	Cedric Washington, Boston Col.	6-0	195	Sr.

Defense

E	Duke Pettijohn, Syracuse	6-2	256	Sr.
E	William Joseph, Miami	6-5	285	So.
T	Damione Lewis, Miami	6-3	285	Sr.
T	Antonio Garay, Boston College	6-4	287	Jr.
LB	Clifton Smith, Syracuse	6-2	250	So.
LB	Taylor Suman, Temple	6-2	235	Jr.
LB	Dan Morgan, Miami	6-3	225	Sr.
CB	Mike Rumph, Miami	6-2	195	Jr.
CB	Will Allen, Syracuse	5-11	182	Sr.
S	Ramon Walker, Pittsburgh	6-0	190	So.
S	Edward Reed, Miami	6-0	190	Jr.

Specialists

K	Nick Lotz, Pittsburgh	6-2	210	Jr.
P	Mark Fazzolari, West Virginia	6-0	195	So.
KR	William Green, Boston College	6-1	220	So.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Andre Davis, Virginia Tech	6-1	200	Jr.
WR	Antonio Bryant, Pittsburgh	6-2	180	So.
TE	Robert Williams, Miami	6-4	240	Jr.
T	Joaquin Gonzalez, Miami	6-5	272	So.
T	Tanner Russell, West Virginia	6-8	310	Sr.
G	Josh Redding, Virginia Tech	6-4	304	Sr.
G	Martin Bibla, Miami	6-4	289	Jr.
C	Jeff McCurley, Pittsburgh	6-5	290	Sr.
QB	Tim Hasselbeck, Boston College	6-2	212	Sr.
RB	Avon Cobourne, West Virginia	5-8	190	So.
RB	Dee Brown, Syracuse	5-10	209	Sr.

Defense

E	Bryan Knight, Pittsburgh	6-2	225	Jr.
E	Sean Guthrie, Boston College	6-4	245	Jr.
T	Dan Klecko, Temple	6-1	265	So.
T	Rickie Simpkins, Syracuse	6-3	304	Jr.
LB	LeVar Talley, Temple	5-11	225	Sr.
LB	Chris Edmonds, West Virginia	6-3	240	Sr.
LB	Morlon Greenwood, Syracuse	6-0	234	Jr.
CB	Jonathan Ordway, Boston College	5-10	178	Jr.
CB	Leonard Myers, Miami	5-11	200	Sr.
S	Al Blades, Miami	6-2	200	Sr.
S	Cory Bird, Virginia Tech	5-10	215	Sr.

Specialists

K	Cap Poklemba, Temple	5-11	175	So.
P	Freddie Capshaw, Miami	5-11	180	So.
KR	Santana Moss, Miami	5-10	175	Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Offense: Dustin Picciotti, FB, Pittsburgh

Defense: D.J. Williams, LB, Miami

toughest Big East foes, Boston College and Virginia Tech, come to Miami.

Nightmare schedule: West Virginia. Sure the Mountaineers have seven home games, but there doesn't appear to be a single cupcake among them: Boston College, Maryland, Miami, Idaho, Notre Dame, Syracuse and East Carolina. Last year, West Virginia lost to five of those opponents by a combined score of 170-74. Notre Dame and Idaho are the new additions, replacing Miami (Ohio) and Navy.

Best matchup: Virginia Tech at Miami, November 4. This game will have huge conference (and, possibly, national) title implications for both teams. It could also have a huge bearing on Vick's Heisman hopes.

Ugliest matchup: Certainly, Temple at Rutgers on October 14 ranks as a strong candidate, but Rutgers at Syracuse November 25 has revenge written all over it. The Orangemen suffered a humiliating 24-21 overtime loss last year in Piscataway, N.J., to an 0-9 Scarlet Knights team. Look for the 'Cuse to harken back to the days when it routinely pummeled Rutgers by scores of 70-14, 50-3 and 42-0.

Upset of the year: Temple over Virginia Tech, October 7. Hey, who says lightning doesn't strike twice? The unranked Owls last visited Lane Stadium in 1998 and shocked the ranked Hokies by snapping an eight-game losing streak with an improbable 28-24 victory. It can happen again.

Bowl bound: Look for Miami and Virginia Tech to duke it out for the BCS slot. Boston College, Syracuse and West Virginia will jockey with Notre Dame for the remaining spots in the Gator, Insight.com, Music City and one of the Hawaii bowls.

Biggest shoes to fill: Chris Hovan's at Boston College. With the Eagles retooling their defensive line, it will be up to junior tackle Antonio Garay to step up and fill the huge void left by Hovan, a first-team All-Big East

Recruiting RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. D.J. Williams	LB	6-2/235	Concord, Calif./De La Salle	Miami
2. Dustin Picciotti	FB	6-3/245	Chalfont, Pa./Central Bucks West	Pittsburgh
3. Johnnie Morant	WR	6-5/225	Parsippany, N.J./Parsippany Hills	Syracuse
4. Dave Kashetta	TE	6-4/255	Westport, Conn./Staples	Boston College
5. Willis McGahee	RB	6-1/215	Miami/Central	Miami
6. Carlos Joseph	DL	6-6/303	Miami/Edison	Miami
7. Willie Dixon	WR	5-11/182	Stockton, Calif./Brookside Christian	Miami
8. Richard Johnson	WR	6-0/170	Baltimore, Md./Milford Mills Academy	Virginia Tech
9. Willie Roberts	TE	6-7/235	Miami/Southridge	Miami
10. Jared Mazzetta	TE	6-5/240	Flemington, N.J./Hunterdon Central	Virginia Tech
11. Justin Hinds	DL	6-4/265	Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway	Boston College
12. Derrick Crudup	ATH	6-0/185	Deefield Beach, Fla./Deerfield Beach	Miami
13. Chad Cooper	LB	6-3/210	Herndon, Va./Oakton	Virginia Tech
14. Walter Reyes	RB	5-11/205	Struthers, Ohio/Struthers	Syracuse
15. Jason Lallis	DL	6-2/235	Mitchellville, Md./DeMatha	Virginia Tech
16. Joel Hazard	WR	5-11/175	Marietta, Ga./Sprayberry	Boston College
17. T.J. Prunty	QB	6-3/205	St. Paul, Minn./St. Paul Academy	Miami
18. Anthony Crosson	DL	6-3/270	North Brunswick, N.J./Carteret	Boston College
19. Yulkeith Brown	DB	5-8/160	Miami, Fla./Northwestern	West Virginia
20. Mike Daniels	DB	6-1/180	Fairfax, Va./Fairfax	Virginia Tech
21. Adam Terry	OL	6-8/275	Queensbury, N.Y./Queensbury	Syracuse
22. Jonathan Dunn	OL	6-6/300	Virginia Beach, Va./Tallwood	Virginia Tech
23. Lenny Walls	DB	6-4/ 200	San Francisco, Calif./San Francisco CC	Boston College
24. Cornelius Green	E	6-4/245	Kilgore, Texas/Kilgore, Texas, JC	Miami
25. Chad Elliott	QB	6-3/200	Sacramento, Calif./American River, Calif., JC	Syracuse
26. Saul Freund	OL	6-7/305	Neshanic Station, N.J./Somerville	Pittsburgh
27. Diamond Ferri	RB	5-10/200	Everett, Mass./Everett	Syracuse
28. Mike Frost	QB	6-2/229	Glendale, Calif./Glendale, Calif., CC	Temple
29. Jordan Stockwell	OL/DL	6-4/330	Worthington, Ohio/Kilbourne	Boston College
30. Mikal Baaqee	LB	5-11/200	Hyattsville, Md./DeMatha	Virginia Tech
31. Lawrence Wade	RB	6-0/185	Washington, D.C./Eastern Senior	Temple
32. Robert Bennett	DL	6-4/295	Fairfax, Va./Robinson	Boston College
33. Maurice Jackson	WR	5-8/156	Rochester, N.Y./Monroe, N.Y., CC	Syracuse
34. Doug Goodwin	DL	6-2/280	Freeport, N.Y./Holy Trinity	Boston College
35. Issac Irby	WR	5-9/170	Delran, N.J./Holy Cross	West Virginia
36. Malcolm Postell	RB	6-1/210	Keyport, N.J./Keyport	Pittsburgh
37. David Routt	DB	6-4/210	Cincinnati/Butler County, Kan., CC	Pittsburgh
38. Jared Jones	QB	6-1/185	Somerville, N.J./Hillsborough	Syracuse
39. Michael Vernillo	RB	5-11/195	Midway, Pa./Fort Cherry	West Virginia
40. Ravon Anderson	RB	5-10/195	Hoboken, N.J./Nassau, N.Y., CC	Rutgers

RANKING the CLASSES

1. Miami
2. Virginia Tech
3. Boston College
4. Syracuse
5. Pittsburgh
6. West Virginia
7. Temple
8. Rutgers

selection and All-American in some circles whose career as a four-year starter was marked by his unrelenting style of play and his penchant for wearing war paint on his face in every game.

Most overrated player: Pittsburgh's Brandon Williams may retire the trophy in this category. Two years ago, he entered Pitt as the school's most highly touted freshman running back since Tony Dorsett. In two seasons, he has rushed for 391 yards. He wound up getting lost in the shuffle last year, carrying the ball once for minus-3 yards. He is now on defense, where he will work at strong safety.

Most underrated player: Temple LB Taylor Suman may be overshadowed in the league by higher-profile players at his position, but no one has been more productive. In his first two seasons, the 6-2, 235-pound Suman ranked among the conference's top five tacklers, recording 99 as a freshman and 129 as a sophomore last year.

Best coach: Virginia Tech's Frank Beamer. How can you argue with success? He took a moribund program stuck in backwater Blacksburg, Va., and turned it into a national power, leading the Hokies to an 11-0 regular-season record, a No. 2 ranking and a berth in the BCS championship game opposite top-ranked Florida State.

Best staff: There doesn't seem to be any better group than Virginia Tech's, where Beamer has assembled a solid group led by defensive coordinator Bud Foster and offensive coordinator Rickey Bustle. Last year, every call they made seemed to be right on the money.

Coach on the hot seat: Were it not for a stirring 24-21 overtime victory against Syracuse, Rutgers coach Terry Shea might have been out of a job. This is a critical season for Shea, who heads into his fifth year at Rutgers with an 8-36 overall record and a 4-24 mark in conference play.

Best bets: The Heisman Trophy is Vick's to lose. If he can sustain his level of play from a year ago, and remain healthy, he likely will put a Heisman-like stiff arm on the rest of the competition. ... Miami LB Dan Morgan will become the school's all-time leading tackler. After averaging 131 tackles in each of his first three seasons, Morgan needs 97 to supplant George Mira Jr. (490). ... The competition for the Big East rushing title will be fierce with the return West Virginia's Avon Cobourne and Boston College's Cedric Washington, the league's top two rushers from a year ago.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

2000 EDITION: *Johnson, with a 4.9-yard career rushing average, is the latest in a long line of talented Syracuse fullbacks.*

However, both will be pushed for time by talented teammates. Cobourne likely will split time with Cooper Rego, and Washington with William Green. Then there's Miami, where Clinton Portis, who led the Hurricanes in rushing last season but will have to deal with a logjam that includes James Jackson, Najeh Davenport, who missed almost all of last season due to a knee injury, and Jarrett Payton, who may be redshirted.

Odds and ends: Among the many comings and goings in the offseason, three staff changes were fairly significant. West Virginia coach Don Nehlen lost three assistants, including long-time assistant Doc Holliday. Holliday, who had been the Mountaineers' assistant head coach/wide receivers coach, left Morgantown to take a $50,000 raise to be NC State's assistant head coach. Pittsburgh's Walt Harris lost talented defensive coordinator Larry Coyer to the Denver Broncos, where Coyer will serve as linebackers coach. And Boston College coach Tom O'Brien lost linebackers coach Al Golden, a young go-getter and talented recruiter who departed Chestnut Hill to return to his alma mater, Penn State, as linebackers coach/recruiting coordinator. ... After shutting down 74-year-old Pitt Stadium last fall with a rousing 37-27 victory over Notre Dame, the Panthers will move temporarily into Three Rivers Stadium, which will be razed at the end of this season to make room for the new 65,000-seat downtown stadium the Steelers and Panthers will share in 2001. The Panthers have played five times at Three Rivers, posting a 2-3 mark.

Big East **IN A NUTSHELL**

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Miami	QB Ken Dorsey has to stay healthy. Experienced unit has to make big plays.	WR Santana Moss RB James Jackson	LB Dan Morgan T Damione Lewis	Oct. 7 vs. Florida State Nov. 4 vs. Virginia Tech
2. Virginia Tech	Questions at running back need to be resolved. Rebuilt line must prove to be tough.	QB Michael Vick WR Andre Davis	CB Ronyell Whitaker SS Cory Bird	Sept. 7 at East Carolina Nov. 4 at Miami
3. Boston College	Veteran attack must fulfill expectations. Line has several holes to fill.	RB Cedric Washington G Paul Zukauskas	T Antonio Garay CB Jonathan Ordway	Nov. 11 at Notre Dame Sept. 30 vs. Virginia Tech
4. Syracuse	Line must work in four new starters. Rebuilding secondary can't spring a leak.	RB Dee Brown FB Kyle Johnson	E Duke Pettijohn CB Will Allen	Sept. 30 vs. BYU Nov. 18 vs. Miami
5. West Virginia	Searching for a quarterback. Youngsters must emerge with four starters back.	RB Avon Cobourne C Rick Gilliam	LB Kyle Kayden LB Chris Edmonds	Oct. 21 vs. Notre Dame Sept. 23 vs. Miami
6. Pittsburgh	Ample skill-position talent has to shine. It's vital for the line to jell quickly.	WR Latef Grim WR Antonio Bryant	FS Ramon Walker LB Ryan Gonsales	Sept. 16 vs. Penn State Oct. 21 vs. Boston College
7. Temple	Inexperienced line must pave way for young RBs. Young secondary could be burned.	WR Greg Muckerson RB Tanardo Sharps	LB Taylor Suman T Dan Klecko	Sept. 9 at Maryland Oct. 14 at Rutgers
8. Rutgers	Top ground gainer gone, and line being rebuilt. Linebacking corps lacks experience.	TE L.J. Smith QB Mike McMahon	CB Tony Berry FS Nate Colon	Nov. 18 vs. Notre Dame Oct. 14 vs. Temple

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Players of the Year

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

OFFENSE

Michael Vick, QB, Virginia Tech

Last December, Michael Vick traveled from Blacksburg, Va., to the Downtown Athletic Club in New York for the Heisman presentation, where he rubbed shoulders with eventual winner Ron Dayne of Wisconsin.

Then, in January, Vick took Virginia Tech's second-ranked team to the Sugar Bowl, where it lost to Florida State in the Bowl Championship Series title game.

And just when it appeared his year couldn't get any more dazzling, he flew to Las Vegas to attend the ESPYs at the MGM Grand, where he shared the stage with a number of star athletes and was able to meet Michael Jordan.

"It's been a crazy year for me," says Vick, a 6-1, 212-pound sophomore. "It was a redshirt freshman year that I don't think anyone has ever seen before."

Indeed, the Big East never has seen the likes of Vick. Yes, former Syracuse quarterback Donovan McNabb was spectacular, but Vick proved last year he was in a league of his own. Vick's unique blend of speed, size, arm strength and athleticism helped him lead the league in total offense with 2,420 yards (1,840 passing, 580 rushing) and pace the nation in passing efficiency (180.4) en route to hitting 90-of-152 passes with 12 touchdowns.

Vick knows he needs to be focused because he will be a targeted man when the Hokies begin defense of their conference title."But our offense has a whole lot more weapons than just me," he says. "So you can't just focus on one thing." —*Michael Vega*

GENE PUSKAR FOR TSN

DEFENSE

Dan Morgan, LB, Miami

When Dan Morgan first learned the NCAA had declared fellow Miami linebacker Nate Webster ineligible for his senior year, the news blindsided him.

"Hearing it for real was a shock because we'd been playing together since our freshman year," says Morgan, a 6-3, 225-pound senior who will move inside to replace Webster. "We were like brothers on and off the field. I was real shocked. I don't think it will change my game. I'll just go out there and play like I'm used to."

Since earning his first start as a true freshman three games into the 1997 season, Morgan has averaged 131 tackles per season. He led the team in tackles as a freshman (105) and sophomore (150) and last season totaled 139 to rank second behind Webster, who was declared ineligible because he applied for the NFL draft.

With Webster no longer flanking him, Morgan figures to surpass George Mira Jr. (490) as Miami's all-time leading tackler. Morgan has 394 career stops and needs 97 more to establish the new mark. That would be a below-average season for Morgan, who excels against the run. If he were to shatter it with another 100-tackle season, Morgan would become the first player in Miami history to average 100 tackles for four consecutive years.

"I definitely want to break the all-time tackling record here at Miami," says Morgan, who was switched to linebacker from running back as a freshman. "But my No. 1 goal is to win the national championship. That's what I came here for. As far as individual goals, if I just continue to play the way I have, then all those things should take care of themselves." —*Michael Vega*

Big East

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Avon Cobourne, West Virginia, Fr.	**10**	**224**	**1,139**	**5.1**	**10**	**113.9**
2. Cedric Washington, Boston College, Jr.	**11**	**222**	**1,122**	**5.1**	**7**	**102.0**
3. Shyrone Stith, Virginia Tech, Jr.	11	226	1,119	5.0	13	101.7
4. Clinton Portis, Miami, Fr.	**10**	**143**	**838**	**5.9**	**8**	**83.8**
5. James Jackson, Miami, Jr.	**10**	**169**	**782**	**4.6**	**9**	**78.2**
6. Dee Brown, Syracuse, Jr.	**11**	**145**	**741**	**5.1**	**4**	**67.4**
7. Kevan Barlow, Pittsburgh, Jr.	**10**	**141**	**630**	**4.5**	**6**	**63.0**
8. Andre Kendrick, Virginia Tech, Jr.	**11**	**103**	**645**	**6.3**	**7**	**58.6**
9. Michael Vick, Virginia Tech, Fr.	**10**	**110**	**580**	**5.3**	**8**	**58.0**
10. Jacki Crooks, Rutgers, Sr.	10	161	567	3.5	3	56.7

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Michael Vick, Virginia Tech, Fr.	**10**	**152**	**90**	**.592**	**5**	**1,840**	**12.1**	**12**	**180.4**
2. Ken Dorsey, Miami, Fr.	**9**	**120**	**74**	**.617**	**2**	**807**	**6.7**	**10**	**142.3**
3. David Priestley, Pittsburgh, So.	**9**	**158**	**92**	**.582**	**3**	**1,305**	**8.3**	**6**	**136.3**
4. Troy Nunes, Syracuse, Fr.	**11**	**161**	**95**	**.590**	**5**	**1,141**	**7.1**	**11**	**134.9**
5. Brad Lewis, West Virginia, So.	**9**	**112**	**67**	**.598**	**3**	**726**	**6.5**	**8**	**132.5**
6. Tim Hasselbeck, B.C., Jr.	**11**	**260**	**145**	**.558**	**7**	**1,940**	**7.5**	**11**	**127.0**
7. Marc Bulger, West Virginia, Sr.	10	239	145	.607	13	1,729	7.2	11	125.7
8. Kenny Kelly, Miami, So.	9	259	141	.544	14	1,913	7.4	15	124.8
9. Chad Schwenk, Rutgers, Fr.	**11**	**125**	**72**	**.576**	**4**	**845**	**6.8**	**3**	**115.9**
10. John Turman, Pittsburgh, Jr.	**11**	**192**	**92**	**.479**	**9**	**1,301**	**6.8**	**10**	**112.6**

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Latef Grim, Pittsburgh, Jr.	**12**	**75**	**1,106**	**4**	**6.8**	**14.8**
2. Carlos Johnson, Temple, So.	**11**	**51**	**520**	**4**	**5.7**	**10.2**
3. Khori Ivy, West Virginia, Jr.	**11**	**53**	**666**	**5**	**4.8**	**12.6**
4. Antonio Bryant, Pittsburgh, Fr.	**11**	**51**	**844**	**6**	**4.6**	**16.6**
5. Antonio Brown, West Virginia, So.	**11**	**50**	**462**	**1**	**4.6**	**9.2**
6. Santana Moss, Miami, Jr.	**11**	**54**	**899**	**6**	**4.5**	**16.7**
7. Daniel Franks, Miami, Jr.	11	45	565	5	3.8	12.6
8. Greg Muckerson, Temple, So.	**12**	**41**	**413**	**2**	**3.7**	**10.1**
9. Dedrick Dewalt, Boston College, So.	**11**	**38**	**604**	**4**	**3.5**	**15.9**
10. Marcus Godfrey, Temple, Sr.	11	37	175	1	3.4	4.7

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia Tech (8)	253.9
2. Boston College (29)	177.5
3. Miami (33)	173.9
4. Syracuse (39)	164.6
5. West Virginia (63)	144.3
6. Pittsburgh (85)	119.6
7. Rutgers (109)	79.5
8. Temple (114)	59.7

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Pittsburgh (33)	240.4
2. Miami (41)	230.5
3. West Virginia (47)	225.0
4. Rutgers (61)	207.9
5. Temple (65)	204.5
6. Boston College (66)	203.2
7. Virginia Tech (72)	197.9
8. Syracuse (88)	171.2

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia Tech (9)	451.8
2. Miami (35)	404.4
3. Boston College (50)	380.6
4. West Virginia (63)	369.3
5. Pittsburgh (70)	360.0
6. Syracuse (80)	335.8
7. Rutgers (102)	287.5
8. Temple (107)	264.3

Defense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia Tech (3)	75.9
2. Miami (21)	109.4
3. Syracuse (28)	116.7
4. Pittsburgh (51)	142.8
5. Boston College (55)	144.9
6. Temple (96)	191.7
7. West Virginia (97)	192.0
8. Rutgers (195)	218.5

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. Virginia Tech (7)	98.1
2. Miami (11)	101.1
3. Syracuse (18)	106.2
4. West Virginia (64)	122.7
5. Pittsburgh (83)	129.5
6. Boston College (97)	135.5
7. Temple (104)	141.2
8. Rutgers (113)	159.6

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia Tech (3)	247.3
2. Syracuse (14)	301.2
3. Miami (16)	301.7
4. Boston College (80)	387.3
5. Pittsburgh (91)	398.5
6. Temple (95)	404.7
7. West Virginia (98)	410.4
8. Rutgers (105)	433.6

1 Miami

NATIONAL RANK 6

Coach: Butch Davis (39-19, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Larry Coker (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Greg Schiano (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 13
Lettermen returning: 46
Site: Miami
Stadium: Orange Bowl (grass, 74,476)
Last league title won: 1996 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 16
1999 record: 9-4 (beat Georgia Tech in Gator Bowl). Big East: 6-1/2nd.

1999 Results

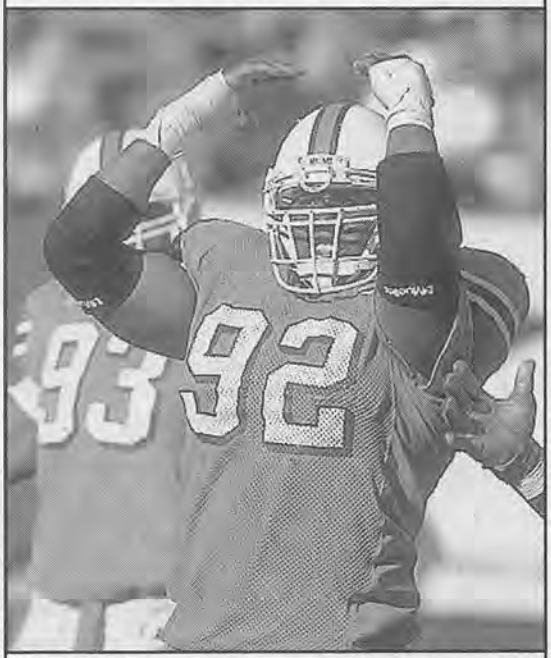
Ohio State, W, 23-12
Florida A&M, W, 57-3
Penn State, L, 27-23
at East Carolina, L, 27-23
at Florida State, L, 31-21
at Boston College, W, 31-28
West Virginia, W, 28-20
at Pittsburgh, W, 33-3
at Virginia Tech, L, 43-10
Rutgers, W, 55-0
Syracuse, W, 45-13
Temple, W, 55-0
Georgia Tech, W, 28-13

Schedule

A31—McNeese State
S9—at Washington
S23—at West Virginia
S30—at Rutgers
O7—Florida State
O21—at Temple
O28—Louisiana Tech
N4—Virginia Tech
N11—Pittsburgh
N18—at Syracuse
N25—Boston College

Offensive philosophy: The Hurricanes like to operate a pro-style offense capable of stretching defenses with their aerial attack, which creates opportunities for their running game.
Offensive stars: Though QB Kenny Kelly, arguably Miami's best player last season, has decided to pursue a pro baseball career, the backfield is teeming with talent. Sophomore QB Ken Dorsey, who played in six games as a true freshman, showed himself to be a capable heir by passing for 807 yards and 10 touchdowns. Miami probably will look to alleviate the pressure on Dorsey by pounding the ball. Najeh Davenport, who missed 12 games last season with an ACL injury, returns to bolster a strong group of running backs that includes senior James Jackson and super sophomores Clinton Portis and Jarrett Payton. The receiving corps is loaded with the return of game-breakers Santana Moss and Reggie Wayne.
Offensive concerns: Though the loss of Kelly posed an immediate concern, the elevation of Dorsey to starter raised another: Who will be the back up? The leading candidate is Ethenic Sands. An injury to Dorsey could severely hobble the offense and limit its ability to stretch defenses with a passing game. Replacements must be found for departed linemen Richard Mercier and Ty Wise and TE Bubba Franks, who left early for the NFL. TE Robert Williams looks like a future star.
Defensive philosophy: The Hurricanes like to dictate the tempo of play with their 4-3 defense by swarming to the ball and bringing extreme pressure off the corners. Miami will funnel the action to the inside, where its talented linebackers are adept at finishing off plays with high-velocity and high-impact tackles.
Defensive stars: Dan Morgan will have to take on added responsibility after the NCAA ruled LB Nate Webster ineligible for his dalliance with the NFL. DT Damione Lewis and upstart Adrian Wilson add a physically talented pair of run-stoppers to Miami's strength up the middle. DEs Quincy Hipps and William Joseph have emerged as playmaking pass rushers. Hard-hitting FS Al Blades presides over a secondary that returns all four starters.
Defensive concerns: Losing a talent such as Webster is always a cause for concern. The coaches have several options. They can move Morgan to Webster's vacated middle linebacker spot. They can promote an inexperienced understudy such as Sheven Marshall or move Chris Campbell from his strongside spot. A third option may be to take a look at talented incoming freshman D.J. Williams, who was considered the nation's best player in the prep ranks last year.

Special teams: There could be some instability here because Miami must find a new snapper, holder and kicker. Todd Sievers, who backed up the departed Andy Crosland, looks to handle the kicking duties, and Freddie Capshaw will be back at punter. Moss, who ranked as the league's No. 2 punt returner last year (14.2 average), is a certified home run threat.
Head coach: Butch Davis finally has weathered the storm of NCAA-imposed sanctions and has the program almost back to full strength, scholarship-wise. A tireless recruiter, he slowly has restocked Miami's arsenal of talent and has succeeded in reshaping the image of the football program.


JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Veteran leader: *Lewis, a fifth-year senior and three-year starter, will anchor a defensive line that will include two new starters.*

Schedule: There should be no debates about Miami's strength of schedule among BCS bowl pundits. Five opponents played in bowl games last year, including national champion Florida State and runner-up Virginia Tech. A September 9 trip to Washington is Miami's only non-conference road trip.
Bottom line: Davis appears to have all the elements in place to make a run at the conference title—and, quite possibly, the national title. There's a veteran defense, a strong running game and a spectacular set of receivers. The only possible hitch could be Dorsey's ability to make a smooth transition from backup to starter and, more important, to remain healthy.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Santana Moss**	**5-10**	**175**	**Sr.**	Daryl Jones	5-10	190	Jr.
T	Bryant McKinnie	6-9	330	Jr.	Joel McGrath	6-5	285	So.
G	**Greg Laffere**	**6-5**	**305**	**Sr.**	Sherko Haji-Rasouli	6-6	310	So.
C	Scott Puckett	6-3	275	Jr.	Brett Romberg	6-3	290	Jr.
G	**Martin Bibla**	**6-4**	**289**	**Jr.**	Ed Wilkins	6-4	300	So.
T	**Joaquin Gonzalez**	**6-5**	**272**	**So.**	*Vernon Carey	6-5	340	Fr.
TE	Robert Williams	6-4	240	Jr.	Ivan Mercer	6-7	245	Sr.
WR	**Reggie Wayne**	**6-1**	**195**	**Sr.**	Andre King	6-0	200	Sr.
QB	Ken Dorsey	6-5	195	So.	Ethenic Sands	6-0	185	So.
RB	**James Jackson**	**5-11**	**210**	**Sr.**	Najeh Davenport	6-2	235	Jr.
FB	Will McPartland	6-0	230	Sr.	Nick Nettles	6-2	250	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**William Joseph**	**6-5**	**285**	**So.**	Jevon Rhodes	6-2	245	Sr.
T	**Damione Lewis**	**6-3**	**285**	**Sr.**	Brian Stinson	6-3	270	Sr.
T	Adrian Wilson	6-2	315	Jr.	Matt Walters	6-5	260	So.
E	Quincy Hipps	6-4	265	Sr.	Jamaal Green	6-3	250	So.
OLB	Howard Clark	6-1	220	So.	*Jerrell Weaver	6-3	210	Fr.
MLB	**Dan Morgan**	**6-3**	**225**	**Sr.**	Sheven Marshall	6-2	235	Jr.
OLB	**Chris Campbell**	**6-2**	**225**	**Jr.**	*Jermell Weaver	6-2	205	Fr.
CB	**Mike Rumph**	**6-2**	**195**	**Jr.**	*Tory Mitchell	6-1	180	Fr.
SS	**Edward Reed**	**6-0**	**190**	**Jr.**	James Lewis	5-11	190	Jr.
FS	**Al Blades**	**6-2**	**200**	**Sr.**	Markese Fitzgerald	5-11	180	Jr.
CB	**Leonard Myers**	**5-11**	**200**	**Sr.**	Phillip Buchanon	5-11	175	So.

Special Teams

K	Todd Sievers	6-3	215	So.	**P**	**Freddie Capshaw**	**5-11**	**180**	**So.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

2 Virginia Tech

NATIONAL RANK 13

Coach: Frank Beamer (88-60-2, 13 years; 130-83-4 overall, 19 years)
Offensive coordinator: Rickey Bustle (7th season)
Defensive coordinator: Bud Foster (6th season).
Offensive scheme: Multiple I
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 39
Site: Blacksburg, Va.
Stadium: Lane (grass, 53,879)
Last league title won: 1999
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1992
1999 TSN rank: 2
1999 record: 11-1 (lost to Florida State in Sugar Bowl). Big East: 7-0/1st

1999 Results

James Madison, W, 47-0
UAB, W, 31-10
Clemson, W, 31-11
at Virginia, W, 31-7
at Rutgers, W, 58-20
Syracuse, W, 62-0
at Pittsburgh, W, 30-17
at West Virginia, W, 22-20
Miami, W, 43-10
at Temple, W, 62-7
Boston College, W, 38-14
Florida State, L, 46-29

Schedule

A27—Georgia Tech
S2—Akron
S7—at East Carolina
S16—Rutgers
S30—at Boston College
O7—Temple
O12—West Virginia
O21—at Syracuse
O28—Pittsburgh
N4—at Miami
N11—at Central Florida
N25—Virginia

Offensive philosophy: Simply put, the main objective of Virginia Tech's multiple offense is to put the ball in QB Michael Vick's hands as often as possible and to let him weave his magic. Vick's ability to drop back in the pocket, break containment and break down defenses with his speed and athleticism is the Hokies' biggest offensive threat.

Offensive stars: A frontrunner for the Heisman Trophy, Vick is to Virginia Tech's constellation of talent what the sun is to our solar system. He has a rocket-launcher arm and warp-drive foot speed. RB Andre Kendrick and WR Andre Davis are two stars who subsist off Vick's energy, and they are in constant orbit around his magnetic presence. Vick should be amply protected by OTs Dave Kadela and Anthony Lambo, who will anchor an offensive line that returns four starters.

Offensive concerns: The exchange between center and quarterback could become a concern after the departure of C Keith Short. The first-game jitters of the new center could diminish his efficiency in making line calls and recognizing blitzes. Another looming concern is keeping Vick healthy. When he's in the lineup, the Hokies can be breathtaking on offense. Without him, they have the tendency to lose some of their spark. Kendrick's eligibility hinges on his performance in summer school. At least RB Lee Suggs shows promise.

Defensive philosophy: The Hokies use a 4-3 scheme and often will put as many as eight—sometimes even nine—men in the box. They'll take chances, but they make no pretenses about the concept behind their defensive scheme: We're coming after ya'. And, often times, they do—in waves.

Defensive stars: SS Cory Bird is an athletic presense who is versatile enough to play close to the line of scrimmage in run support and in the secondary in pass coverage. CB Ronyell Whitaker, who served as Anthony Midget's understudy last season, is the best cover man in the secondary. LBs Ben Taylor and Jake Houseright will have to step up and realize their potential to help the team compensate for the losses of Jamel Smith and Michael Hawkes.

Defensive concerns: With DEs Corey Moore and John Engelberger off to the NFL, the Hokie defense will have to find other ways to pressure the passer. A neutralized pass rush will only make a young and inexperienced secondary that much more vulnerable, especially since the biggest drawback to the scheme is that it tends to isolate the corners in coverage.

Special teams: What has been an iron-clad strength in the Virginia Tech armor for the past four years now has developed a chink. How do the Hokies replace All-Big East K Shayne Graham, the conference's all-time leading scorer, and P Jimmy Kibble? Walk-ons Carter Warley and Robert Peaslee will be given the opportunity to test their unproven legs.

Schedule: In response to criticism last year about having a weak schedule, the Hokies went out and tried to upgrade their non-league slate—and found no takers. After all, who wants to have to defend Vick? Georgia Tech stepped to the plate and will take on the Hokies in the BCA Classic. Akron, East Carolina, Central Florida and intrastate rival Virginia round out the non-conference schedule.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Into the spotlight: *With eight defensive starters—four of whom were NFL draft picks—gone, much will be expected of strong safety Bird.*

Head coach: No one has had more sustained success in the Big East than Frank Beamer, who was recognized last season not only as the conference's top coach but as national coach of the year after guiding the Hokies to their first undefeated regular season, a No. 2 ranking in the polls and a berth in the Bowl Championship Series title game opposite top-ranked Florida State.

Bottom line: If Beamer can patch up the gaping holes in the front seven of his defense, shore up the special teams, keep Vick healthy throughout his run for the Heisman and win the crucial road game at Miami on November 4, then he'll have the Hokies primed to make another run for the conference—and, quite possibly, the national—championship.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Emmett Johnson	6-3	207	Jr.	*Ronald Moody	6-0	196	Fr.
T	**Anthony Lambo**	**6-3**	**283**	**Sr.**	Anthony Davis	6-3	318	So.
G	**Matt Lehr**	**6-2**	**285**	**Sr.**	Joe Marchant	6-3	295	Sr.
C	Steve DeMasi	6-3	276	Sr.	*Jake Grove	6-3	277	Fr.
G	**Josh Redding**	**6-4**	**304**	**Sr.**	Luke Owens	6-3	295	So.
T	**Dave Kadela**	**6-6**	**290**	**Sr.**	Matt Wincek	6-5	286	Jr.
TE	Browning Wynn	6-3	228	Jr.	Bob Slowikowski	6-5	252	Jr.
WR	**Andre Davis**	**6-1**	**200**	**Jr.**	Shawn Witten	6-0	187	So.
QB	**Michael Vick**	**6-1**	**212**	**So.**	Dave Meyer	6-3	211	Sr.
RB	Lee Suggs	6-0	201	So.	Wayne Ward	5-11	208	Jr.
FB	**Jarrett Ferguson**	**5-9**	**219**	**Jr.**	Cullen Hawkins	6-0	219	Sr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Lamar Cobb	6-2	226	So.	*Cols Colas	6-0	232	Fr.
T	Chad Beasley	6-5	285	Jr.	*Kevin Lewis	6-1	267	Fr.
T	David Pugh	6-3	271	Jr.	Dan Wilkinson	6-1	258	Jr.
E	*Nathaniel Adibi	6-3	242	Fr.	Ron Cook	6-2	234	Jr.
OLB	**Nick Sorensen**	**6-3**	**207**	**Sr.**	Tee Butler	6-0	201	Sr.
ILB	Jake Houseright	6-3	235	Jr.	Brian Welch	6-0	244	Jr.
ILB	**Ben Taylor**	**6-2**	**225**	**Jr.**	Benny Wolfe	5-10	202	Sr.
CB	Ronyell Whitaker	5-9	193	So.	*Garnell Wilds	6-0	194	Fr.
SS	**Cory Bird**	**5-10**	**215**	**Sr.**	Phillip Summers	6-0	201	Sr.
FS	Willie Pile	6-3	200	So.	Billy Hardee	5-11	192	So.
CB	Larry Austin	5-9	180	Jr.	Philip Hicks	6-0	180	Jr.

Special Teams

K	*Carter Warley	5-11	187	Fr.	**P**	*Robert Peaslee	6-0	192	Fr.

More on Virginia Tech at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/virginiatech/ AOL keyword: TSN

3 Boston College

NATIONAL RANK 29

Coach: Tom O'Brien (16-18, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Dana Bible (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Frank Spaziani (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 14
Lettermen returning: 48
Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Stadium: Alumni (turf, 44,500).
Last league title won: none
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 29
1999 record: 8-4 (lost to Colorado in Insight.com Bowl). Big East: 4-3/3rd

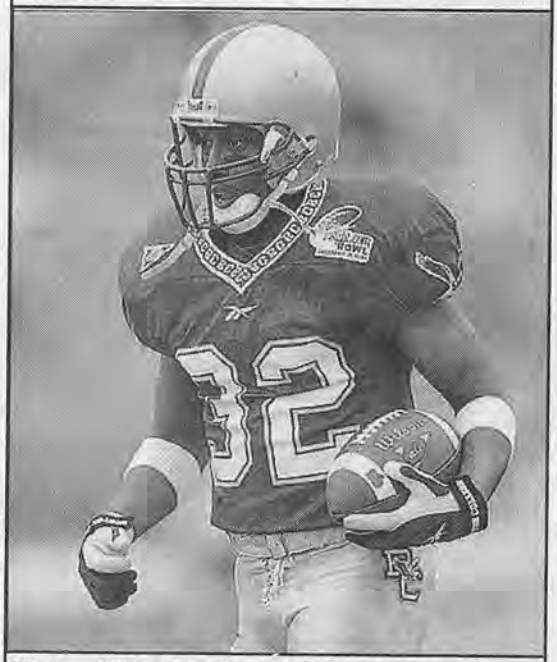
1999 Results

Baylor, W, 30-29
at Navy, W, 14-10
at Rutgers, W, 27-7
Northeastern, W, 33-22
at Temple, L, 24-14
Pittsburgh, W, 20-16
Miami, L, 31-28
at Syracuse, W, 24-23
West Virginia, W, 34-17
at Notre Dame, W, 31-29
at Virginia Tech, L, 38-14
Colorado, L, 62-28

Schedule

S2—at West Virginia
S9—at Army
S23—Navy
S30—Virginia Tech
O7—Connecticut
O14—Syracuse
O21—at Pittsburgh
O28—Rutgers
N4—Temple
N11—at Notre Dame
N25—at Miami

Offensive philosophy: The Eagles like to use multiple formations from which they strive to create a run-pass balance aimed at destabilizing opposing defenses. In most cases, BC uses its running game to pound the opposition and set up its passing game.
Offensive stars: Though he sat out spring practice recovering from offseason groin/abdomen surgery, Tim Hasselbeck again figures to start at quarterback. His decision-making will have to improve, or he's likely to get some heat from backup Brian St. Pierre, who played sparingly last season but got the majority of the reps in the spring. The team is loaded with running back talent with the return of Cedric Washington, who ran for 1,122 yards last season to rank as the Big East's No. 2 rusher; William Green, a highly-touted recruit who showed flashes of brilliance as a true freshman; and the addition of redshirt freshman Derrick Knight, a shifty speed-burner, and bullish FBs J.P. Comella and Greg Toal. Dedrick Dewalt, Jamal Burke and DuJuan Daniels form a young trio of talented deep-threat receivers.
Offensive concerns: Although it allowed the fewest sacks of any Big East team last season (21), the stability of the offensive line is suspect after the departure of RT Darnell Alford and C Butch Palaza. Gs Paul Zukauskas and Paul LaQuerre and LT Michael Cook return to form a solid nucleus. Untested TEs Mike Guazzo and Josh Cervi will be expected to fill the void left by the departures of Bryan Arndt and Robert Ellis, who surprised the coaching staff in the spring by choosing not to return for his fifth year of eligibility.
Defensive philosophy: Hard-nosed play always has been the hallmark of BC defenses. The Eagles use a 4-3 scheme that is predicated on strong, physical play at the point of attack.
Defensive stars: Jonathan Ordway, the team's leading returning tackler (75), and D.J. Sutton, who appears to have fully recovered from ACL knee surgery that hampered him last year, are solid cover corners. LB Scott Bradley has good range on the perimeter and is strong against the run. DT Antonio Garay, an NCAA All-American wrestler, will have to grapple with the problem of being the only experienced returnee on a decimated defensive front.
Defensive concerns: The foremost concern will be patching up a defensive front that lost four starters among its front seven, most notably All-American DT Chris Hovan. FB Ryan Burch will move to linebacker and hopefully fill the run-stopping role Frank Chamberlin filled last season. The Eagles could be prone to mental mistakes because several inexperienced redshirt freshmen will be the backups at many spots along the defensive front and in the secondary.
Special teams: This could be a shaky area. Sandro Sciortino, a mid-year transfer, likely will inherit the kicking job vacated by the proven John Matich, and Kevin McMyler, who averaged 37.2 yards per punt last season, returns. The kick return squad should be bolstered by the presence of Green and Daniels, who had a stunning 100-yard TD return of the opening kick at Syracuse, and with Dewalt handling punt returns.
Head coach: Tom O'Brien has things headed in the right direction. After going 4-7 in each of his first two seasons, O'Brien earned a one-year contract extension (which will take him through the 2005 season) with an 8-4 record and a bowl appearance last season. His last two recruiting classes have been solid.
Schedule: After opening the season with road games at West Virginia and Army, the Eagles have an open date before a grueling stretch of eight consecutive games. The good news is that six of those games are at home, including four in a row against Navy, Virginia Tech, Connecticut and Syracuse.
Bottom line: If an emerging offense is able to carry a young and inexperienced defense, and the Eagles are able to survive that midseason eight-game marathon, they'll go bowling again.



DAVID SANDERS FOR TSN

Whatever it takes: *In addition to his kickoff-return TD against Syracuse, Daniels also scored twice on pass receptions last season.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jamal Burke	6-0	196	So.	Ryan Read	5-11	180	Jr.
T	**Michael Cook**	**6-5**	**310**	**Sr.**	*Leo Bell	6-6	275	Fr.
G	**Paul LaQuerre**	**6-3**	**291**	**Sr.**	John Richardson	6-3	279	Jr.
C	Dan Koppen	6-3	288	So.	Todd McKniff	6-4	253	So.
G	**Paul Zukauskas**	**6-6**	**318**	**Sr.**	Mark Parenleau	6-5	290	So.
T	Marc Colombo	6-8	298	Jr.	Dan Murphy	6-6	268	So.
TE	**Mike Guazzo**	**6-3**	**248**	**Sr.**	Josh Cervi	6-3	241	Jr.
WR	**Dedrick Dewalt**	**5-9**	**175**	**Jr.**	DuJuan Daniels	5-11	181	Jr.
QB	**Tim Hasselbeck**	**6-2**	**212**	**Sr.**	Brian St. Pierre	6-3	201	So.
RB	**Cedric Washington**	**6-0**	**195**	**Sr.**	William Green	6-1	220	So.
FB	*J.P. Comella	6-1	215	Fr.	Ryan Utzler	6-1	236	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold * *Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Derric Rossy	6-3	241	So.	Tom Martin	6-5	255	Fr.
T	Antonio Garay	6-4	287	Jr.	*Jim Connor	6-5	270	Fr.
T	Kevin Crane	6-4	267	Jr.	*Keith Leavitt	6-8	290	Fr.
E	Sean Guthrie	6-4	245	Jr.	Frank Misurelli	6-5	225	So.
OLB	**Scott Bradley**	**6-1**	**219**	**Jr.**	Steve Martin	6-2	232	Sr.
MLB	**Ryan Burch**	**6-3**	**242**	**Sr.**	Andrew Romanowsky	6-2	227	Jr.
OLB	*Josh Ott	6-1	195	Fr.	Marco Williams	6-1	211	So.
CB	**Jonathan Ordway**	**5-10**	**178**	**Jr.**	*William Poole	5-11	185	Fr.
SS	Ralph Parent	6-2	206	So.	Doug Bessette	5-11	205	So.
FS	**RaMon Johnson**	**5-10**	**192**	**Sr.**	*Paul Cook	5-11	190	Fr.
CB	D.J. Sutton	5-8	158	Sr.	Trevor White	5-10	180	So.

Special Teams

K	*Sandro Sciortino	5-10	194	Fr.	P	Kevin McMyler	6-1	192	So.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

4 Syracuse

NATIONAL RANK 32

Coach: Paul Pasqualoni (75-31-1, 9 years; 109-48-1 overall, 14 years)
Offensive coordinator: George DeLeone (11th season)
Defensive coordinator: Chris Rippon (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro option
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 27
Site: Syracuse, N.Y.
Stadium: Carrier Dome (artificial, 49,550)
Last league title won: 1998
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1994
1999 TSN rank: 39
1999 record: 7-5. Big East: 3-4/T4th

1999 Results

at Toledo, W, 35-12
Central Michigan, W, 47-7
Michigan, L, 18-13
West Virginia, W, 30-7
Tulane, W, 47-17
at Pittsburgh, W, 24-17
at Virginia Tech, L, 62-0
Boston College, L, 24-23
Temple, W, 27-10
at Rutgers, L, 24-21 (OT)
at Miami, L, 45-13
Kentucky, W, 20-13

Schedule

S2—Buffalo
S9—at Cincinnati
S23—at East Carolina
S30—Brigham Young
O7—Pittsburgh
O14—at Boston College
O21—Virginia Tech
N4—at West Virginia
N11—at Temple
N18—Miami
N25—Rutgers

Offensive philosophy: For the most part, the goal of Syracuse's spread-option-oriented attack is to get the ball into the hands of its skilled athletes in space and let them take advantage of an opponent's defensive imbalance or deficiency. But the 1999 offense bogged down when it was rendered one-dimensional by an anemic passing attack.
Offensive stars: Multi-talented RB Dee Brown, who also split time with QBs Troy Nunes and Madei Williams running the option last season, should reprise his role as Syracuse's leading rusher after gaining 741 yards on 145 carries last season. He'll likely be challenged by James Mungro, who arrived at Syracuse with high expectations but has yet to live up to them. WR Maurice Jackson, who clocked an electronically-timed 4.18 in the 40-yard dash in the spring, has the ability to stretch the field with his explosive speed.
Offensive concerns: Who will play quarterback? Last year, coach Paul Pasqualoni never seemed to decide on either Nunes or Williams. That indecision proved costly to the rhythm of the offense, particularly the timing of its intricate passing game. The picture could be further muddled with the emergence of talented junior college prospect Chad Elliott. Will the left knee of G Joe Burton, the lone returning starter on the offensive line, hold up this season? Will Maurice Jackson, who spent a year in academic exile from the school, be able to step in and become a deep threat?
Defensive philosophy: As is the case with most 4-3 schemes, Syracuse attempts to be aggressive—shifting linebackers off the line of scrimmage into blitzing schemes and bringing pressure off the corner.
Defensive stars: LBs Clifton Smith, who started as a freshman last season, and Morlon Greenwood should be able to fill the void left by the departure of Keith Bulluck, who averaged a league-leading 13.5 tackles per game last season. DTs Eric Downing and Rickie Simpkins have proven bullish against the inside run. DE Duke Pettijohn, who is on the small side, is an active pass rusher who used great leverage and speed off the corner in recording 10 sacks last year. FS Quentin Harris is the head-hunting leader of a secondary that returns three starters.
Defensive concerns: The first and foremost concern is finding a replacement for Bulluck's leadership. Greenwood likely will have to assume the responsibility in order to solidfy the front seven. Depth in the secondary is another concern. To rectify the potential problem, RB Keeon Walker and WR Maurice Minter were moved to safety in the spring, but it could take some time for them to adjust.

Special teams: Syracuse will sorely miss K Nate Trout, the second-leading scorer (76 points) in the Big East last year. The Orangemen likely will have to rely on Mike Shafer or the unproven leg of either Pete Ferris or incoming freshman Collin Barber. Shafer, who averaged 38.4 yards last season, will be back as the punter. Jackson's speed will rev up the return teams.
Schedule: There doesn't appear to be much heavy lifting in the first month, except for the notable exception of a visit from BYU, but the schedule gets considerably tougher the rest of the way. The Orangemen play six home games, including two against their toughest league foes: Virginia Tech and Miami.
Head coach: Pasqualoni was the target of a lot of grousing last year, so much so that basketball coach Jim Boeheim, normally no slouch himself in the grousing department, felt compelled to step up in defense of the football coach. Pasqualoni's record, though, speaks for itself. In nine years, he is 75-31-1 overall, 44-17 in conference and 5-2 in seven bowl games. So quit your complaining.
Bottom line: Pasqualoni should have his team in contention for another postseason appearance, but he will have to rely upon a veteran defense to help carry an uncertain offense that still appears to be in the process of finding itself.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Iron man: *Greenwood, a fifth-year senior, has started 37 consecutive games for the Orangemen, the longest current streak on the team.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Pat Woodcock**	**5-9**	**170**	**Sr.**	Maurice Jackson	5-8	156	Jr.
T	Erik Kaloyanides	6-4	281	So.	*Kevin Sampson	6-4	285	Fr.
G	Sean O'Connor	6-4	290	Jr.	Emerson Kilgore	6-4	309	Sr.
C	P.J. Alexander	6-4	283	So.	*Nick Romeo	6-1	291	Fr.
G	**Joe Burton**	**6-5**	**281**	**So.**	Vaughn Smith	6-2	304	Sr.
T	Shane LaVigne	6-2	293	So.	Giovanni DeLoatch	6-5	317	Jr.
TE	Graham Manley	6-3	251	Jr.	*Joe Donnelly	6-2	230	Fr.
WR	Malik Campbell	6-2	187	Jr.	David Tyree	6-1	194	So.
QB	**Troy Nunes**	**6-1**	**182**	**So.**	Madei Williams	6-2	219	Jr.
RB	**Dee Brown**	**5-10**	**209**	**Sr.**	James Mungro	5-9	205	Jr.
FB	**Kyle Johnson**	**6-1**	**241**	**Sr.**	George Scott	5-11	238	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Duke Pettijohn**	**6-2**	**256**	**Sr.**	*Josh Thomas	6-6	234	Fr.
T	**Rickie Simpkins**	**6-3**	**304**	**Jr.**	*Louis Gachelin	6-0	261	Fr.
T	**Eric Downing**	**6-3**	**288**	**Jr.**	Mark Holtzman	6-4	250	Jr.
E	Dwight Freeney	6-0	256	So.	Clifford Snell	6-2	242	Jr.
OLB	**Morlon Greenwood**	**6-0**	**234**	**Sr.**	*Jameel Dumas	6-2	213	Fr.
MLB	**Clifton Smith**	**6-2**	**250**	**So.**	Rodney Wells	6-0	218	So.
OLB	JR Johnson	6-0	213	Jr.	*Rich Scanlon	6-1	214	Fr.
CB	**Will Allen**	**5-11**	**182**	**Sr.**	Will Hunter	5-10	176	So.
SS	Willie Ford	6-2	194	Jr.	Andre Brinson	5-8	168	Jr.
FS	**Quentin Harris**	**6-0**	**206**	**Jr.**	Charles Burton	6-1	207	Jr.
CB	Will Hunter	5-10	176	Jr.	Latroy Oliver	5-7	181	So.

Special Teams

K	Mike Shafer	5-9	160	So.	**P**	Mike Shafer	5-9	160	So.

More on Syracuse at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/syracuse/ AOL keyword: TSN

5 West Virginia

NATIONAL RANK 43

Coach: Don Nehlen (142-88-4, 20 years; 195-123-8 overall, 29 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bill Legg (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Steve Dunlap (10th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple I
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 32
Site: Morgantown, W. Va.
Stadium: Mountaineer Field (turf, 63,500)
Last league title won: 1993
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 69
1999 record: 4-7. Big East: 3-4/T4th

1999 Results

at East Carolina, L, 30-23
Miami (Ohio), W, 43-27
at Maryland, L, 33-0
at Syracuse, L, 30-7
Navy, L, 31-28
Rutgers, W, 62-16
Temple, W, 20-17
at Miami, L, 28-20
Virginia Tech, L, 22-20
at Boston Col., L, 34-17
Pittsburgh, W, 52-21

Schedule

S2—Boston College
S16—Maryland
S23—Miami
S28—at Temple
O7—Idaho
O12—at Virginia Tech
O21—Notre Dame
N4—Syracuse
N11—at Rutgers
N18—East Carolina
N24—at Pittsburgh

Offensive philosophy: The basic principle of Don Nehlen's Multiple I is to use a methodical, ball-control running attack and then to throw the defense off balance by striking deep with the passing game.

Offensive stars: Last year, Avon Cobourne made everyone forget about Amos Zereoue's departure, rushing 224 times for a league-high 1,139 yards and 10 touchdowns as a freshman. WRs Khori Ivy, Antonio Brown and Carlos Osequeda give West Virginia the ability to flood the field with sure-handed and speedy wideouts. OTs Tanner Russell and Matt Wilson anchor a line that returns four starters from what was a young, inexperienced group in '99 but now is proven.

Offensive concerns: It will be almost the same as it was a year ago, when the Mountaineers had a veteran quarterback in Marc Bulger but no proven backup. When Bulger went down with injuries, it left Nehlen no alternative but to turn over the offense to inexperienced Brad Lewis. With Bulger gone, Lewis will return with some game experience, but he'll be backed up by redshirt freshman Scott McBrien and three incoming recruits. RG Rick Gilliam will move to center, which will heighten concerns about the smooth operation of the offense. And will Nehlen be able to replace All-Big East TE Anthony Becht?

Defensive philosophy: West Virginia deploys a straight 4-3 but will throw in a few wrinkles by bringing pressure off the corner from its ends and up the middle from its safeties.

Defensive stars: The Mountaineers, who lost seven starters on defense, will rely upon the leadership of senior LB Chris Edmonds, entering his third season as a starter; junior LB Kyle Kayden, another third-year starter; and senior DT Antwan Lake, who primarily will be responsible for bringing the heat on the pass rush. That trio combined for 181 tackles and 12 sacks last season.

Defensive concerns: Where to begin? First and foremost, Nehlen will have to completely overhaul a secondary that ranked sixth in the league in pass defense (allowing 218.4 yards per game) last year and returns barely a soul. Junior FS Rick Sherrod is the ranking member of the secondary with three career starts. There is fear that opposing teams will throw deep early and often against West Virginia's unproven corners. The line that must find replacements for DTs Ryan Brady and Greg Robinette. Lake and David Upchurch will lead a group that likely will be vulnerable at the point of attack.

Special teams: K Zach Anglin, who has yet to attempt a field goal, likely will have to assume the job vacated by the dependable Jay Taylor, but don't count out Jon Ohliger. P Mark Fazzolari, who led the league last year with an average of 41.5 yards, is solid.

Schedule: The Mountaineers play the most home games (seven) of any team in the conference. Idaho and Notre Dame replace Miami (Ohio) and Navy on a home lineup that includes visits from Boston College, Maryland, Miami (Fla.), Syracuse and East Carolina. The upside is that West Virginia gets three of its four toughest league opponents at home. The downside is that the Mountaineers lost to all three last year.

GENE PUSKAR FOR TSN

Class act: *Ivy, who caught a team-high 53 passes in 1999, was granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA after graduating in May.*

Head coach: Nehlen is the closest thing there is to a coaching icon in the Big East, but even he was subject to quite a bit of grumbling in Morgantown last year. During one home game, he suffered the indignity of watching a plane buzz overhead at Mountaineer Field, towing a banner that read: "Nehlen Must Go." Last year's 4-7 campaign was Nehlen's fourth losing season in 20 years as the coach. Fifth among winningest active coaches in Division I-A, Nehlen needs only five victories to reach 200.

Bottom line: There are too many unresolved questions: at quarterback, on the defensive line and in the secondary. If the Mountaineers don't find the solutions, they could slide even further in the league standings.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Khori Ivy**	**6-2**	**195**	**Sr.**	Phil Braxton	6-2	200	So.
T	**Matt Wilson**	**6-5**	**285**	**Sr.**	Lance Nimmo	6-6	290	So.
G	**Terry Dixon**	**6-3**	**335**	**Sr.**	Mike Enick	6-4	290	Sr.
C	**Rick Gilliam**	**6-6**	**325**	**Sr.**	*Tim Brown	6-5	300	Fr.
G	Jason Brooks	6-3	300	Jr.	Rondrick Smith	6-3	295	So.
T	**Tanner Russell**	**6-8**	**310**	**Sr.**	Brad Knell	6-5	300	Jr.
TE	Sean Berton	6-5	255	So.	Brad Cusick	6-4	250	So.
WR	**Antonio Brown**	**5-10**	**165**	**Jr.**	Shawn Terry	6-3	175	Jr.
QB	Brad Lewis	6-3	215	Jr.	*Scott McBrien	6-2	185	Fr.
RB	**Avon Cobourne**	**5-8**	**190**	**So.**	Cooper Rego	5-9	190	Jr.
FB	Wes Ours	6-1	290	Sr.	Tory Johnson	6-4	260	Fr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Jason Davis	6-5	280	So.	Cortez McNeil	6-3	270	Jr.
NG	David Upchurch	6-4	275	So.	William Perry	6-2	290	So.
T	**Antwan Lake**	**6-5**	**285**	**Sr.**	Tim Love	6-5	265	So.
OLB	**Chris Edmonds**	**6-3**	**240**	**Sr.**	Jamien Harvey	6-4	245	So.
OLB	David Carter	6-2	240	Sr.	James Davis	6-2	215	So.
MLB	**Kyle Kayden**	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**	Corey McIntyre	6-0	250	Sr.
OLB	Grant Wiley	6-1	230	Fr.	Ben Collins	5-10	215	So.
CB	Lewis Daniels	6-1	190	So.	*Brian King	6-0	175	Fr.
SS	Shawn Hackett	6-1	195	Jr.	Jerry Jerido	5-10	190	Sr.
FS	**Rick Sherrod**	**6-3**	**195**	**Jr.**	Ben Meighan	6-2	195	So.
CB	Richard Bryant	6-0	165	Jr.	*Lance Frazier	5-9	180	Fr.

Special Teams

K	Jon Ohliger	6-0	225	Sr.	**P**	**Mark Fazzolari**	6-0	195	So.	Zach Anglin	6-0	195	Jr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

6 Pittsburgh

NATIONAL RANK 53

Coach: Walt Harris (13-21, 3 years; 24-45 overall, 6 years)
Offensive coordinator: J.D. Brookhart (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Paul Rhoads (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 46
Site: Pittsburgh
Stadium: Three Rivers (turf, 59,600)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 59
1999 record: 5-6. Big East: 2-5/T6th

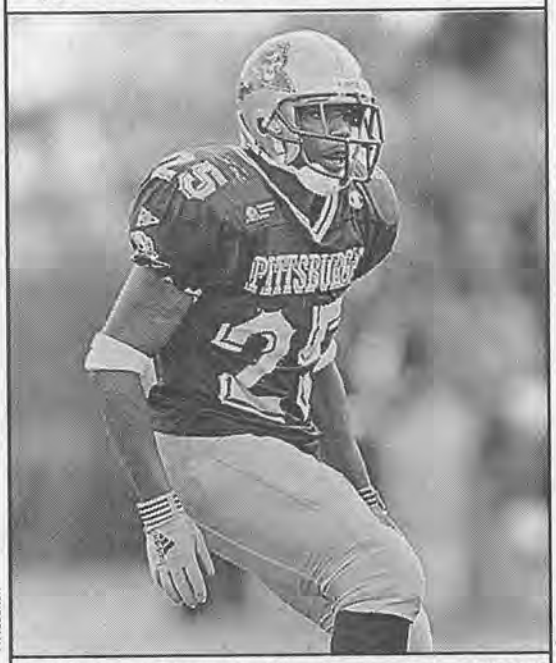
1999 Results

Bowling Green, W, 30-10
at Penn State, L, 20-17
Kent, W, 30-23
Temple, W, 55-24
Syracuse, L, 24-17
at Boston Coll., L, 20-16
at Rutgers, W, 38-15
Virginia Tech, L, 30-17
Miami, L, 33-3
Notre Dame, W, 37-27
at West Virginia, L, 52-21

Schedule

S2—Kent
S9—at Bowling Green
S16—Penn State
S23—Rutgers
O7—at Syracuse
O21—Boston College
O28—at Virginia Tech
N4—North Carolina
N11—at Miami
N18—at Temple
N24—West Virginia

Offensive philosophy: It has always been Walt Harris' plan to spread teams out and attack them with his pro-style offense, which uses multiple formations and places an emphasis on pinpoint passing accuracy.
Offensive stars: QBs John Turman and David Priestley, who sat out spring drills recovering from offseason shoulder surgery, give the Panthers a double-barreled passing game. WRs Latef Grim and Antonio Bryant, who combined for 126 receptions for 1,950 yards and nine TDs in '99, are a formidable receiving duo. Kevan Barlow, the team's leading rusher, Nick Goings, a former Ohio State transfer, and Torrie Cox, whose freshman campaign was hampered by a knee injury, are a triple threat of speed, size and power in the backfield.
Offensive concerns: The interior of the line returns intact with C Jeff McCurley, G Bryan Anderson and T Khiawatha Downey, but there are big questions at the tackle spots. Will Mark Browne, who was a starter two years ago but sat out last season as a medical redshirt because of a left shoulder injury, be able to handle the physical duress of playing left tackle? Will the spring experiment of shifting Downey from guard to right tackle solidify or destabilize the line? Pittsburgh's ability to use its biggest offensive threats could be seriously undermined if the line struggles.
Defensive philosophy: Larry Coyer left to join the NFL's Denver Broncos, but new coordinator Paul Rhoads does not intend to make any radical changes to the Panthers' 4-3 scheme. It is based on the players' ability to swarm to the ball, run from sideline to sideline and bring extra heat with the zone blitz package.
Defensive stars: Ryan Gonsales, whose sophomore year was sidetracked by a knee injury, Amir Purifoy and Gerald Hayes form a solid trio of proven linebackers who are solid run-stoppers and capable of playing in space. Big-hitting FS Ramon Walker, an All-Big East selection and Jim Thorpe Award candidate, solidified his spot after leading the team with 131 tackles. DE Bryan Knight is a solid pass rusher who led the team in tackles for loss (9), sacks (3) and QB hurries (6).
Defensive concerns: The secondary could be vulnerable at the corner spot vacated by Hank Poteat, who was regarded as the team's best cover man. Furthermore, CB Demetrious Rich was booted off the team. Robb Butler and Taron Gray will fight it out for Poteat's spot. The linebacking corps could face undue pressure from having to step up and make plays for an inexperienced line that has two returning starters in T Mike White and E Bryan Knight. Depth also will be a concern since Pittsburgh will be looking at several young and inexperienced players to fill the voids up front.
Special teams: Nick Lotz, who converted 90 percent of his PATs (30-of-33) and 76 percent of his FGs (13-of-17) last season, is back to handle the kicking duties. The timing of the kicking and punting units could be affected by new faces at punter and snapper.
Head coach: A year after winning only two games overall and going winless in the league, Harris earned a contract extension through the 2006 season by guiding the Panthers to within a game of their second bowl appearance in three years. With two talented quarterbacks and a pair of gifted wideouts in Grim and Bryant, Harris has the tools to develop Pittsburgh into one of the league's premier passing teams.



PITTSBURGH

Bright future: *Walker, a serious Thorpe Award candidate, was the only freshman named to the first team All-Big East defense last season.*

Schedule: After feasting on a pair of Mid-American Conference morsels (Kent and Bowling Green), the Panthers *really* open the season when intrastate rival Penn State visits the following week. Pittsburgh's whole season will likely hinge on a tough five-game stretch that begins with a road trip to Syracuse and ends with a game at Miami.
Bottom line: Harris has the Panthers on the rise. If they can get steady production from their quarterbacks and stalwart play from their linebackers, the Panthers will likely return to postseason play, provided they can steal a game or two in that crucial five-game stretch.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Antonio Bryant**	**6-2**	**180**	**So.**	Lamar Slade	6-4	195	So.
T	Mark Browne	6-5	285	Sr.	*Matt Morgan	6-6	290	Fr.
G	Jon Schall	6-4	270	Fr.	Nick Pietracatello	6-3	245	Fr.
C	**Jeff McCurley**	**6-5**	**290**	**Sr.**	Chad Reed	6-3	275	So.
G	**Bryan Anderson**	**6-5**	**295**	**So.**	Timothy Robertson	6-5	270	Sr.
T	**Khiawatha Downey**	**6-4**	**295**	**So.**	Joe Manganello	6-4	290	So.
TE	Brennan Carroll	6-3	240	Jr.	Mike Bosnic	6-7	285	Jr.
WR	**Latef Grim**	**6-0**	**185**	**Sr.**	R.J. English	6-3	200	Jr.
QB	**John Turman**	**6-4**	**215**	**Sr.**	David Priestley	6-4	200	Jr.
RB	**Kevan Barlow**	**6-1**	**235**	**Sr.**	Torrie Cox	5-9	185	So.
FB	Mark Moothart	6-0	235	Jr.	*Lousaka Polite	6-0	220	Fr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Ryan Smith	6-4	245	So.	Nigel Neal	6-3	290	Sr.
T	*Darrell McMurray	6-4	290	Fr.	*Penny Semaia	6-5	320	Fr.
NT	Brandon Dewey	6-4	250	Jr.	**Mike White**	**6-3**	**280**	**Sr.**
E	**Bryan Knight**	**6-2**	**225**	**Jr.**	*Claude Harriott	6-4	225	Fr.
OLB	Gerald Hayes	6-3	230	So.	**Amir Purifoy**	**6-2**	**235**	**Jr.**
MLB	**Ryan Gonsales**	**6-2**	**240**	**Jr.**	Scott McCurley	6-0	215	So.
OLB	Brian Beinecke	6-1	210	So.	Nick Cole	6-2	230	Jr.
CB	*William Ferguson	5-10	175	Fr.	Shawn Robinson	6-1	170	So.
SS	**Mark Ponko**	**5-10**	**200**	**Jr.**	Brandon Williams	6-0	215	Jr.
FS	**Ramon Walker**	**6-0**	**190**	**So.**	*Corey Humphries	6-1	190	Fr.
CB	Taron Gray	5-10	185	So.	Robb Butler	6-0	185	So.

Special Teams

K	**Nick Lotz**	**6-2**	**210**	**Jr.**	P	Jay Junko	6-4	200	So.

More on Pittsburgh at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/pittsburgh/ AOL keyword: TSN

7 Temple

NATIONAL RANK 84

Coach: Bobby Wallace (4-18, 2 years; 86-54-1 overall, 12 years)
Offensive coordinator: Charlie Fisher (1st season).
Defensive coordinator: Raymond Monica (3rd season).
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 54
Site: Philadelphia
Stadium: Veterans (turf, 66,592)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1979
1999 TSN rank: 106
1999 record: 2-9. Big East: 2-5/T6th

1999 Results

Maryland, L, 6-0
at Kansas State, L, 40-0
at Akron, L, 25-15
at Marshall, L, 34-0
at Pittsburgh, L, 55-24
Boston College, W, 24-14
at West Virginia, L, 20-17
Rutgers, W, 56-28
at Syracuse, L, 27-10
Virginia Tech, L, 62-7
at Miami, L, 55-0

Schedule

S2—at Navy
S9—at Maryland
S16—Bowling Green
S23—Eastern Michigan
S28—West Virginia
O7—at Virginia Tech
O14—at Rutgers
O21—Miami
N4—at Boston College
N11—Syracuse
N18—Pittsburgh

Offensive philosophy: Last year, Bobby Wallace admitted it took the Owls almost the whole season to make the transition from a run-oriented option attack to the pass-oriented spread option. This year, even with new offensive coordinator Charlie Fisher calling the shots, the Owls are not likely to stray from the passing objective.

Offensive stars: QBs Devin Scott and Mac DeVito gave the Owls a 1-2 punch in 1999, but Scott proved to be the better passer and athlete when he was healthy. Sophomore TB Tanardo Sharps emerged last season as a runner with the speed to break open on the perimeter and the strength to run between the tackles, but that job likely will belong to FB Jason McKie this season. Greg Muckerson, who has the physical presence to go over the middle for the tough catch, will be the main receiving threat because speedy Carlos Johnson decided to leave the team in the spring.

Offensive concerns: The development of a young offensive line will hinge on the maturation of LT Dave Yovanovits. The Owls must polish up their line play and avoid the mental mistakes that have plagued them in the past. But with four newcomers entering the mix, Temple is almost assured of making its fair share of O-line mistakes. Junior Tyrone Ditzel, a converted defensive end, needs to step up in the absence of departed TE Joe Khamis.

Defensive philosophy: As is the case with most 4-3 schemes, Temple's aim is to be physical at the point of attack and to use its speed and quickness to swarm to the ball from sideline to sideline.

Defensive stars: The key to Temple's defensive success rests with the production of LBs LeVar Talley and Taylor Suman, the top two returning tacklers in the Big East. OLB Chonn Lacey is a rangy player who has the versatility to play strong at the point of attack or to drop off into coverage, giving the secondary an extra hand. DT Dan Klecko, who looks to reprise the success he had last season as a freshman, gives Temple a strong presence up front with his pass rush and run-stopping ability.

Defensive concerns: As was the case last season, Wallace's greatest concern on defense is the team's overall youth and inexperience. Seven starters return, including five of the team's top six tacklers, but only one of those returnees is in the secondary. Losing CB Kevin Harvey, who led the team in interceptions and also received spot duty at receiver (as well as punt returner), was huge. CB Philip Shepard, who started five games last season, is the only returning veteran of a group that likely will be tested early and often.

Special teams: Temple should be in good shape here with the return of K Cap Poklemba and P Garvin Ringwelski, both of whom stepped up when thrown into competition as true freshmen last year.

Schedule: For the first time in 15 seasons, Temple will play six home games. The last time was in 1984, when Temple went 6-5, with a 4-2 record at home. The Owls host, in order, West Virginia, Miami, Syracuse and Pittsburgh. It is a vast improvement from last season, when Temple played five of its first seven games outside of Philadelphia.

TEMPLE

Home at last: *Muckerson began his career as a defensive back in 1997, was moved to quarterback in '98 and then to wide receiver in '99.*

Head coach: Despite going 2-9 in each of his first two seasons, Wallace clearly has the Owls on the rise. Wallace, the former North Alabama coach, could have bailed for Auburn when loyalists lobbied hard on his behalf, but he would have left behind unfinished business at Temple. After presiding over steady improvements in personnel and in the on-campus facilities, Wallace knows if he can turn Temple into a winner, he'll be able to write his ticket.

Bottom line: This is a pivotal year for the Owls. Their most talented players are juniors, and they are expected to lead the team. If that class remains healthy and on the field, look for Temple to make an ascent in the conference standings.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	*Charles Cobb	5-11	170	Fr.	**Sean Dillard**	**5-8**	**165**	**So.**
T	Dave Yovanovits	6-3	274	So.	*Jose Portillo	6-3	274	Fr.
G	Vincent Gabriele	6-5	274	So.	*Joe Laudano	6-2	256	Fr.
C	**Don Klein**	**6-1**	**296**	**So.**	Greg Hilliard	6-5	279	So.
G	David Terry	6-2	266	So.	*Danny Culic	6-2	334	Fr.
T	Mathias Nkwenti	6-4	281	Sr.	*Frank Hoffman	6-5	269	Fr.
TE	Tyrone Ditzel	6-3	219	Jr.	Chris Pitt	6-2	238	Jr.
WR	**Greg Muckerson**	**5-11**	**187**	**Jr.**	Terrence Stubbs	6-1	189	So.
QB	**Devin Scott**	**6-1**	**198**	**So.**	Mac DeVito	5-11	178	So.
RB	Tanardo Sharps	5-9	174	So.	Lester Trammer	5-10	198	So.
FB	**Jason McKie**	**5-11**	**227**	**Jr.**	Kyron Johnson	5-9	187	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Raheem Brock**	**6-4**	**257**	**Sr.**	*J.D. Stanley	6-2	230	Fr.
T	**Dan Klecko**	**6-1**	**265**	**So.**	Jason Wright	6-3	281	Jr.
T	**Russell Newman**	**6-2**	**253**	**Jr.**	Rob Sack	6-2	246	So.
E	Akeiff Staples	6-3	236	Jr.	Jason Davis	6-2	230	Jr.
OLB	**Taylor Suman**	**6-2**	**235**	**Jr.**	Edrick Harley	6-2	194	Jr.
MLB	**LeVar Talley**	**5-11**	**225**	**Sr.**	Leon Gray	6-1	203	Jr.
OLB	**Chonn Lacey**	**6-2**	**217**	**Jr.**	Brian West	5-11	188	Jr.
CB	Philip Shepard	5-10	179	Jr.	Terrance Leftwich	6-0	174	So.
SS	Lafton Thompson	6-2	199	Jr.	Almonese Boyles	5-11	195	Jr.
FS	Jamal Wallace	6-0	181	Jr.	Jermaine Grandberry	5-11	191	Jr.
CB	*Donnie Coleman	5-8	160	Fr.	Jairo Almonte	5-9	175	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Cap Poklemba**	**5-11**	**175**	**So.**	P	Garvin Ringwelski	6-5	191	So.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

8 Rutgers

NATIONAL RANK 101

Coach: Terry Shea (8-36, 4 years; 23-42-2 overall, 6 years)
Offensive coordinator: Jim Benedict and Bill Laveroni (1st seasons)
Defensive coordinator: Dennis Creehan (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 37
Site: New Brunswick, N.J.
Stadium: Rutgers (grass, 41,500)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1978
1999 TSN rank: 105
1999 record: 1-10. Big East: 1-6/8th

1999 Results

at California, L, 21-7
Texas, L, 38-21
Boston College, L, 27-7
at Wake Forest, L, 17-10
Virginia Tech, L, 58-20
at West Virginia, L, 62-16
Pittsburgh, L, 38-15
at Temple, L, 56-28
Navy, L, 34-7
Syracuse, W, 24-21 (OT)
at Miami, L, 55-0

Schedule

S2—Villanova
S9—Buffalo
S16—at Virginia Tech
S23—at Pittsburgh
S30—Miami
O14—Temple
O21—at Navy
O28—at Boston College
N11—West Virginia
N18—Notre Dame
N25—at Syracuse

Offensive philosophy: With an offense that ranked 102nd out of 114 Division I-A teams, it is difficult to say what the philosophy was or what it accomplished last season. What coach Terry Shea wants is the crisp execution of a West Coast scheme predicated on a passing game that spreads out the opposition with a multitude of offensive sets.

Offensive stars: When QB Mike McMahon went down with a season-ending shoulder injury last year, freshman Chad Schwenk stepped in and gave the Scarlet Knights a glimmer of hope for the future. There will be plenty of hands on board for McMahon and Schwenk (who are expected to battle for the starting job) with the return of WRs Walter King, Errol Johnson, Antoine Lovelace and Sean Carty. TE L.J. Smith will bring an added dimension with his size, quickness and athleticism.

Offensive concerns: Shea has to decide on his quarterback early. Any hint of indecision will heighten a controversy he does not need or want because it would complicate the rhythm and timing of the offense. But the quarterback question might be rendered moot if the Scarlet Knights don't address the re-tooling they have to do on the offensive line. LG Rich Mazza is the only senior in what appears to be a young and inexperienced group.

Defensive philosophy: To better utilize the personnel they have at linebacker and in the secondary—and to mask some of their inexperience up front—the Scarlet Knights have switched from a 4-3 to a 3-4 scheme. They were caught in a difficult situation last season when an increasingly difficult schedule and mounting injuries took a toll on their plans to stop the run, rush the passer and create points off turnovers. Instead, Rutgers ranked last in the conference in rushing defense, scoring defense and total defense.

Defensive stars: CB Tony Berry and FS Nate Colon, a converted running back, were the stalwarts of a defense that was decimated by injuries last year. The Knights hope to be bolstered by the return of CB Garrett Shea, the coach's son who sat out last year with a neck burner. SS Tarell Freeney, who went down with an early-season ACL injury, was moved to linebacker in the spring. LBs Wes Robertson, one of the strongest players on the team, and Nate Leonard, who plays great in space but underwent shoulder surgery over the winter, will assume much of the responsibility. The coaching staff is high on Ts Jason Malakoski and Greg Pyszczymuka, who will miss time with a knee injury.

Defensive concerns: The switch back to a 3-4 scheme, which is what Shea used in his first couple of seasons at Rutgers, will place a huge burden on the linebacking corps and a fragile secondary that was ravaged by injuries in '99. What happens if Rutgers is beset again with injuries? Does it have the personnel to adapt to a more conventional approach? Not likely. Another concern: How will the defensive players coming off injuries hold up this season?

Special teams: K Steven Barone, who converted the winning field goal in Rutgers' only victory last season, has a proven leg and continues to improve his range and accuracy. P Mike Barr, who was pressed into action as a true freshman last season, has shown he is capable of handling pressure.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

It's still football: *Johnson is coming off a productive first season in Division I-A after two standout seasons in the junior college ranks.*

Head coach: Clearly, this is a make-or-break season for Shea, who is entering his fifth year at Rutgers with only four Big East wins. He will need more of his front-line players to be standing on their feet instead of on crutches on the sidelines during games. If not, it's likely to be his last season in Piscataway.

Bottom line: Rutgers faces a long, uphill climb to get out of the conference cellar. It's going to take some time for the younger talent to work its way up the ranks. Problem is, Shea cannot afford the luxury of waiting on that talent. It's now or never.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Walter King**	**6-2**	**200**	**Sr.**	Aaron Martin	6-4	205	So.
T	Howard Blackwood	6-4	275	So.	*Rich McManis	6-5	320	Fr.
G	**Rich Mazza**	**6-3**	**280**	**Sr.**	*Krzysztof Kaczorowski	6-6	300	Fr.
C	Jeremy Womack	6-4	280	So.	Randy Smith	6-4	270	Sr.
G	Mike Esposito	6-4	315	So.	Julian Ross	6-4	290	Jr.
T	Travis Mills	6-3	305	Jr.	Tim Baker	6-4	305	Sr.
TE	**L.J. Smith**	**6-4**	**225**	**Jr.**	Rob Ring	6-4	250	Jr.
WR	**Errol Johnson**	**6-2**	**210**	**Sr.**	Sean Carty	6-0	185	So.
QB	Mike McMahon	6-3	215	Sr.	**Chad Schwenk**	**6-2**	**200**	**So.**
RB	**Dennis Thomas**	**6-1**	**220**	**Jr.**	Jason Ohene	6-0	195	Jr.
FB	Seth Stanton	6-2	240	Jr.	John Ciurciu	6-0	240	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Marcus Perry	6-1	260	Jr.	Will Burnett	6-4	250	So.
NT	**Thomas Petko**	**6-0**	**285**	**Sr.**	Bill Tulloch	6-3	255	Jr.
E	Greg Pyszczymuka	6-2	260	So.	Will Burnett	6-4	250	So.
OLB	**Wes Robertson**	**6-2**	**225**	**Sr.**	Jerred Friday	6-3	210	So.
ILB	Mitch Davis	6-1	220	So.	Steve Berson	5-11	210	So.
ILB	Tarell Freeney	6-0	200	Jr.	Gary Brackett	5-11	200	So.
OLB	Dennis McCormack	6-2	230	Sr.	Brian Bender	6-2	210	So.
CB	Garrett Shea	5-10	190	Sr.	Brandon Haw	6-0	170	So.
SS	**Shahib White**	**5-11**	**200**	**Sr.**	*Wes Lysack	6-0	200	Fr.
FS	**Nate Colon**	**5-10**	**190**	**So.**	Shawn Seabrooks	5-9	190	So.
CB	**Tony Berry**	**6-1**	**185**	**So.**	DeWayne Thompson	5-8	185	So.

Special Teams

K	**Steven Barone**	**5-11**	**170**	**Jr.**	**P**	Mike Barr	6-3	235	So.

More on Rutgers at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/rutgers/ AOL keyword: TSN

SCOUTING THE ACC

Offseason ACC coaching carousel began with single, late-season game

CONFERENCE RANK 6

By Doug Doughty

It may have been the most meaningful yard in the 1999 ACC football season, and it had nothing to do with the championship. Of course, in a conference dominated by Florida State, the championship is almost an afterthought.

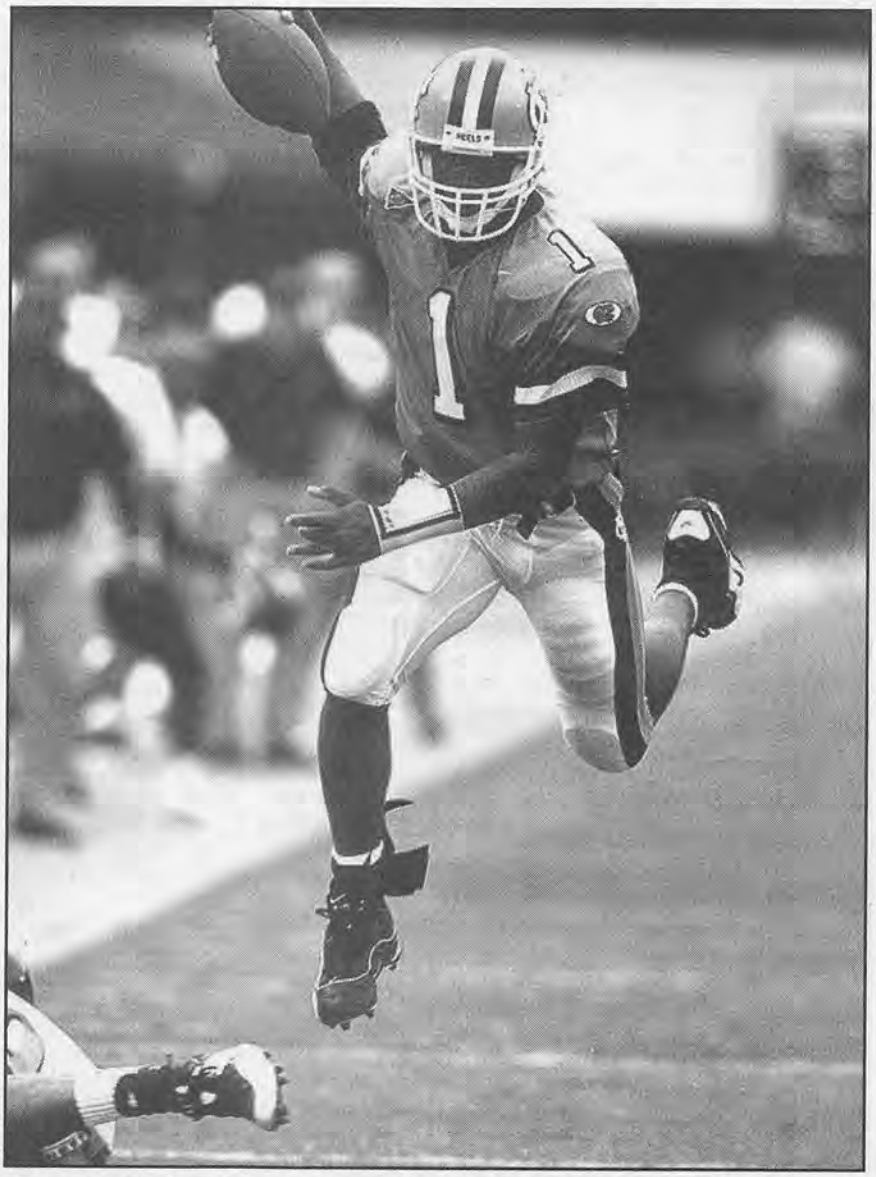
When North Carolina stopped North Carolina State on a last-minute fourth-down play in the season's next-to-last week, little did anybody realize how much UNC's 10-6 victory that night would impact both programs and coaching staffs.

There still was the matter of a North Carolina victory over Duke and an NC State loss to East Carolina the next week, but it's mind-boggling to think what might have happened had NC State prevailed—as easily could have happened—against Carolina. The Wolfpack probably would have gone to a bowl game, Mike O'Cain would have returned for his eighth season as head coach, Carl Torbush would have been out after two years at North Carolina and Chuck Amato probably would be entering his 19th season as linebackers coach at Florida State.

Indeed, Torbush already was negotiating with Carolina on a buyout of his contract before the Tar Heels routed Duke 38-0 to close out their season with two victories after a 1-8 start. Two days later, North Carolina announced Torbush would be returning for the third year of his five-year contract. Five days later, O'Cain was out at State.

That set in motion a chain of events that resulted in North Carolina hiring O'Cain as offensive coordinator and Wolfpack assistant Robbie Caldwell as offensive line coach and, ultimately, in Amato returning to his alma mater, NC State, as head coach.

It made for an interesting offseason, and the 2000 season won't be boring. For one thing, State opened the bank for Amato's coaching staff, now known as the "Millionaire's Club," which includes former Brigham Young offensive coordinator Norm Chow. For another, it set up the most compelling game of the season, when the Wolfpack goes to Chapel Hill on October 14.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Mr. Irreplaceable: *North Carolina averaged 22.6 points in its first five games with Curry as quarterback last season. Without him in their final six games, the Tar Heels averaged 12.2.*

Ascending: North Carolina. This is a no-brainer after last year's 3-8 season. Carolina had nine straight winning seasons from 1990-98 and should make it 10 of 11 this year.

Descending: Wake Forest. The Deacons went for broke last year and finished 7-5 with 17 seniors among their 22 starters, many of them fifth-year seniors. It left coach Jim Caldwell in a rebuilding mode again as the Deacons try to avoid a seventh losing season in eight years.

Dream schedule: Florida State. The Seminoles' business manager can't complain about a schedule that keeps the team in state for eight of its 12 games. In addition to four home conference games, Florida State plays Louisville and Florida in Tallahassee, goes to Jacksonville to play Brigham Young and visits Miami.

Nightmare schedule: Georgia Tech. Yellow Jackets fans might wonder why athletic director Dave Braine and football coach

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
Clemson	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	8	2
Duke	6	9	9	9	8	7	9	8	5	9
Florida State	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Georgia Tech	7	2	5	5	4	8	6	5	1	4
Maryland	2	7	2	4	7	6	7	7	2	8
N. Carolina	5	6	6	6	2	2	2	2	6	5
NC State	8	5	8	7	5	5	4	4	7	6
Virginia	4	1	4	3	6	4	8	6	4	3
Wake Forest	9	8	7	8	9	9	5	9	9	7

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-ACC First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kelly Campbell, Georgia Tech	5-11	170	Jr.
WR	Rod Gardner, Clemson	6-4	215	Sr.
TE	Alge Crumpler, North Carolina	6-3	255	Sr.
T	Chris Brown, Georgia Tech	6-6	315	Sr.
T	Brett Williams, Florida State	6-6	320	So.
G	Brent Key, Georgia Tech	6-4	280	Sr.
G	Justin Amman, Florida State	6-4	305	Sr.
C	Melvin Fowler, Maryland	6-3	287	Jr.
QB	Chris Weinke, Florida State	6-5	240	Sr.
RB	Travis Minor, Florida State	6-1	190	Sr.
RB	LaMont Jordan, Maryland	5-11	219	Sr.

Defense

E	Roland Seymour, Florida State	6-4	264	Sr.
E	Jamal Reynolds, Florida State	6-4	254	Sr.
T	Ryan Sims, North Carolina	6-4	285	Jr.
T	Terry Jolly, Clemson	6-2	290	Sr.
LB	Tommy Polley, Florida State	6-5	233	Sr.
LB	Keith Adams, Clemson	5-11	220	Jr.
LB	Brandon Spoon, North Carolina	6-2	245	Sr.
CB	Errol Hood, North Carolina	5-11	195	Jr.
CB	Tay Cody, Florida State	5-11	180	Sr.
S	Derrick Gibson, Florida State	6-2	200	Sr.
S	Robert Carswell, Clemson	6-0	215	Sr.

Specialists

K	Brian Kopka, Maryland	5-7	170	Sr.
P	Keith Cottrell, Florida State	6-4	205	Jr.
KR	John Stone, Wake Forest	5-11	182	Jr.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Koren Robinson, NC State	6-2	200	So.
WR	Billy McMullen, Virginia	6-4	195	So.
TE	Billy Baber, Virginia	6-4	255	Sr.
T	Tarlos Thomas, Florida State	6-5	310	Jr.
T	Jarvis Borum, NC State	6-7	341	Sr.
G	Montrae Holland, Florida State	6-3	325	So.
G	Josh Lawson, Virginia	6-5	295	Jr.
C	Jarad Moon, Florida State	6-4	300	Sr.
QB	Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson	5-11	200	Jr.
RB	Willie Parker, North Carolina	5-10	195	Fr.
RB	Ray Robinson, NC State	5-10	202	Jr.

Defense

E	Greg Gathers, Georgia Tech	6-1	255	So.
E	Julius Peppers, North Carolina	6-6	270	So.
T	Charles Hill, Maryland	6-2	283	Jr.
T	Monsanto Pope, Virginia	6-3	265	Jr.
LB	Byron Thweatt, Virginia	6-2	233	Sr.
LB	Aaron Thompson, Maryland	6-1	233	Jr.
LB	Brian Allen, Florida State	6-2	225	Sr.
CB	Michael Waddell, North Carolina	5-11	170	So.
CB	Tony Okanlawon, Maryland	5-11	193	Jr.
S	Chris Hope, Florida State	6-2	195	Jr.
S	Billy-Dee Greenwood, N. Carolina	6-2	185	Jr.

Specialists

K	Luke Manget, Georgia Tech	5-9	176	So.
P	Brian Morton, Duke	6-6	220	Sr.
KR	Marvious Hester, Georgia Tech	5-11	166	So.

Newcomer of the Year

Offense: Willie Parker, RB, North Carolina

Defense: Michael Waddell, CB, North Carolina

George O'Leary agreed to a 12th game against Virginia Tech and Michael Vick in Blacksburg, Va. Braine may be an ex-Virginia Tech AD, but he would not have scheduled the game without O'Leary's approval. O'Leary felt it was important to expose his young quarterbacks to a hostile environment before they begin ACC play.

Best matchup: Florida State at Miami, October 7. The Seminoles' visit to Miami, likely preseason favorite in the Big East, looms large on the national scene. Florida State had lost five straight games to Miami in the Orange Bowl before winning the past two. In the ACC, Clemson's trip to North Carolina on October 21 could determine if the Clemson-Florida State game two weeks later in Tallahassee will mean anything.

Ugliest matchup: The Citadel at Clemson, September 2. The Tigers have outscored The Citadel 202-22 in seven games in Death Valley. They also are 35-0 against Southern Conference opposition there.

Upset of the year: Maryland over Virginia, October 7. The Cavaliers have a chance of being 5-0 going into the game, requiring them to beat Brigham Young and Clemson. If so, it would be difficult for them to be at an emotional peak against a Terps team that almost beat the Cavaliers last year and usually plays Virginia tough in Charlottesville.

Bowl bound: It's almost better to start with the two teams that won't go—Duke and Wake Forest. Florida State and Clemson are certain to get bids, with Virginia and North Carolina in the likely category. Then, it's who gets the required number of victories among Georgia Tech, NC State and Maryland. Tech, which needs to win seven games because it plays 12, may have the toughest road.

Biggest shoes to fill: Joe Hamilton's at Georgia Tech. Although it took the NFL seven rounds to realize his worth, Hamilton finished his career as the ACC's all-time total offense leader and was the master of the fourth-quarter comeback. Other quarterbacks may be taller, but few have his arm,

Recruiting

RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Travis Johnson	DL	6-5/240	Sherman Oaks, Calif./Notre Dame	Florida State
2. Bryant McFadden	DB	6-1/180	Hollywood, Fla./McArthur	Florida State
3. Yohance Buchanan	DB	6-1/210	Atlanta, Ga./Douglass	Florida State
4. Alex Barron	OL	6-6/290	Orangeburg, S.C./Wilkinson	Florida State
5. Raymond Mann	DL	6-2/227	Hampton, Va./Hampton	Virginia
6. Clarence Gaddy	LB	6-4/210	Lilling, N.C./West Harnett	North Carolina
7. Michael Boulware	WR	6-3/200	Columbia, S.C./Spring Valley	Florida State
8. Javon Walker	WR	6-3/190	Lafayette, La./Jones (Miss.) J.C.	Florida State
9. Brandon Sumner	QB	6-3/200	Daytona Beach, Fla./Mainland	Georgia Tech
10. Chad Mascoe	LB	6-2/225	Kissimmee, Fla./Osceola	Florida State
11. Madison Hedgecock	LB	6-3/240	Thomasville, N.C./Ledford	North Carolina
12. Derrick Hamilton	WR	6-4/190	Dillon, S.C./Dillon	Clemson
13. Todd McClinton	TE	6-6/250	Columbia, S.C./Johnson	Clemson
14. Devaughn Darling	LB	6-2/220	Houston, Texas/Austin	Florida State
15. Philip Rivers	QB	6-5/215	Athens, Ala./Athens	NC State
16. Reggie Love	WR	6-4/225	Charlotte, N.C./Providence Day	Duke
17. Victor Stephens	DB	6-2/170	Webster, Texas/Hargrave, Va., Academy	NC State
18. Art Thomas	DB	6-3/190	Mechanicsburg, Pa./Fork Union, Va.	Virginia
19. Chris Kelley	QB	6-2/190	Germantown, Md./Seneca Valley	Maryland
20. Eric Moore	LB	6-5/228	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee	Florida State
21. Andre Williams	RB	6-1/215	Durham, N.C./Northern	North Carolina
22. Darian Durant	QB	6-1/217	Florence, S.C./Wilson	North Carolina
23. Greg Jones	RB	6-1/225	Beaufort, S.C./Battery Creek	Florida State
24. Devard Darling	WR	6-3/195	Houston, Texas/Austin	Florida State
25. Keith Kelly	RB	6-0/215	Walterboro, S.C./Walterboro	Clemson
26. Marquis Weeks	RB	6-0/193	Berwyn, Pa./Conestoga, Pa.	Virginia
27. Ray Willis	OL	6-6/256	Angleton, Texas/Angleton	Florida State
28. Hobie Holiday	LB	6-4/230	Warner Robins, Ga./Houston County	Georgia Tech
29. J.P. Foschi	TE	6-5/245	Old Brookville, N.Y./Chaminade	Georgia Tech
30. Derrick Brantley	OL	6-5/300	Mullins, S.C./Mullins	Clemson
31. Fred Staton	RB	5-10/180	Charlotte, N.C./West Charlotte	Wake Forest
32. Shaun Hill	QB	6-3/225	Parsons, Kan./Hutchinson, Kan., CC	Maryland
33. Mark Logan	QB	6-0/185	Greenwood, S.C./Greenwood	Georgia Tech
34. Nate Hardage	LB	6-2/225	Sylvester, Ga./Worth County	Florida State
35. Reggie Koon	DL	6-4/275	Miramar, Fla./Miramar	Georgia Tech
36. Maurice Shanks	WR	6-4/175	Hampton, Va./Phoebus	Maryland
37. Hikee Johnson	RB	6-0/180	Lansdale, Pa./Penn	Virginia
38. Jeremy Battier	WR	6-4/187	Birmingham, Mich./Country Day	Duke
39. Brandon Russell	RB	5-11/185	Atlanta, Ga./Marist	North Carolina
40. Jonathan Ward	RB	6-1/235	Poway, Calif./Poway	Virginia

RANKING the CLASSES

1. Florida St.	3. N. Carolina	6. Maryland	9. Duke
2. Georgia Tech	4. Virginia	7. NC State	
	5. Clemson	8. Wake Forest	

feet and heart.

Most overrated player: Florida State RB Travis Minor. In three seasons at FSU, Minor has rushed for 2,295 yards. Does that make him a bust? No way. However, at least one publication named him the nation's offensive player of the year coming out of high school. With that kind of build-up, you might have expected a 1,000-yard season by now.

Most underrated player: Georgia Tech DE Greg Gathers. As a true freshman, Gathers ranked fourth in the ACC in tackles for loss (18) and sacks (seven) but somehow was not among 15 defensive linemen nominated by ACC coaches for the all-conference team.

Best coach: Clemson's Tommy Bowden. If the Tigers' 1999 turnaround is any indication, Bowden might build Clemson into a power and tempt some Florida State fans to come after him when his father retires.

Best staff: It says something when Florida State can attract Joe Kines, a defensive coordinator at several stops and once the head coach at Arkansas, to be its new linebackers coach. Defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews is a former national assistant of the year, and offensive coordinator Mark Richt is a head coach-in-waiting.

Coach on the hot seat: North Carolina's Carl Torbush. Torbush nearly lost his job last year, when the Tar Heels lost eight of nine games before finishing with wins over NC State and Duke. Injuries played a major part in North Carolina's collapse, but Torbush would not survive another losing season in 2000.

Best bets: Florida State will finish in the national top four for the 14th straight season. The Seminoles will win their seventh outright ACC championship to go with two shared titles. ... Duke will suffer its sixth straight losing season, extending the ACC's longest drought. ... Virginia will extend its streak of seasons with at least seven victories to 14, but just barely. Only Florida State, Nebraska and Michigan have current streaks as long or longer. ... Wake Forest will not have a winning record in the conference for the 12th consecutive year.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Been around: *Free safety Shawn Forte is the lone senior in an experienced Maryland secondary.*

Odds and ends: Rumors were flying in the summer of 1999 that the ACC was about to extend an invitation to Miami, but talks have cooled to the point that ACC athletic directors subsequently met three times without expansion being discussed. Though some support for Miami remains, seven of nine schools would have to vote in favor of the Hurricanes, which seems unlikely. ... ACC officials are happy with the agreement they have with the Aloha Bowl, which last year had the fifth choice of ACC teams. Surprising Wake Forest was a 23-3 winner over Arizona State. "It's a good trip for the kids, and nobody expects you to sell any tickets," one official says. The agreement extends through the 2001 season. ... Virginia will rededicate Scott Stadium, refurbished at a cost of $86 million, on September 2 with a game against BYU. Clemson is nearing completion of a more modest stadium project, and Georgia Tech has one in the planning stages. ... Former Division I-A or I-AA head coaches entering the ACC as assistants this year include Kines at Florida State, former VMI head coach Eddie Williamson at Wake Forest and ex-Chattanooga coach Buddy Green at NC State. ... Williamson, the Deacons' new offensive coordinator, is in his second tour at Wake Forest and fourth at an ACC school. He previously coached at Duke and North Carolina. ... Maryland coach Ron Vanderlinden, with two years remaining on his original five-year deal, received a contract extension through the 2003 season. ... Few people were surprised when a pair of first-team All-ACC selections—Florida State K Sebastian Janikowski and Maryland CB Lewis Sanders— and second team All-ACC choice WR Dez White of Georgia Tech passed up their final seasons of eligibility. The big surprise was when Florida State QB Chris Weinke, who turns 28 on July 31, decided to return. ... After setting a Division I-A record in 1998 by returning seven fumbles for touchdowns, Georgia Tech finished 114th out of 114 teams in turnover margin (minus-12) last season. The Yellow Jackets were the only ACC team to finish first in a I-A statistical category, total offense. Tech, remarkably consistent, averaged 509.4 yards without the benefit of a 600-yard game. ... Florida State coach Bobby Bowden hasn't lost the killer instinct at age 70. He signed the top three prospects in South Carolina, beating son Tommy on all three. "We couldn't get the old man," the Clemson coach said. "We'll have to give him some rat poison and finish him off."

ACC IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Florida State	Need playmakers to step up at receiver. Interior of line looking for two new starters.	RB Travis Minor QB Chris Weinke	SS Derrick Gibson E Roland Seymour	Nov. 18 vs. Florida Nov. 4 vs. Clemson
2. Clemson	Young line must continue to mature. Secondary has to be retooled.	WR Rod Gardner RB Travis Zachery	LB Keith Adams T Terry Jolly	Nov. 18 vs. South Carolina Oct. 21 at North Carolina
3. North Carolina	Line must replace five starters. Experienced unit needs to dominate.	TE Alge Crumpler QB Ronald Curry	LB Brandon Spoon E Julius Peppers	Nov. 4 at Pittsburgh Oct. 21 vs. Clemson
4. Virginia	Must replace RB Thomas Jones' production. Counting on too many youngsters.	TE Billy Baber QB Dan Ellis	LB Byron Thweatt LB Yubrenal Isabelle	Nov. 25 at Virginia Tech Sept. 23 vs. Clemson
5. Maryland	Line is looking for two new starters. Rebuilt line has to be tough against the run.	RB LaMont Jordan K Brian Kopka	LB Aaron Thompson CB Tony Okanlawon	Sept. 16 at West Virginia Oct. 7 at Virginia
6. Georgia Tech	Must sort out quarterback situation. Young unit needs to develop quickly.	WR Kelly Campbell T Chris Brown	SS Chris Young E Greg Gathers	Nov. 25 at Georgia Nov. 9 vs. Virginia
7. NC State	Line needs to be overhauled and a QB is needed. Strong linebacking corps must carry the load.	WR Koren Robinson RB Ray Robinson	LB Levar Fisher LB Clayton White	Sept. 9 at Indiana Oct. 14 at North Carolina
8. Wake Forest	Young team needs help at OL, WR and QB. A thin line could get worn down.	C Vince Azzolina T Michael Collins	E Bryan Ray CB Keyshorn Smith	Oct. 7 vs. Vanderbilt Sept. 9 vs. North Carolina
9. Duke	Needs to develop wide receivers. Line must replace three starters.	QB Spencer Romine RB Duane Epperson	LB Kendral Knight LB Todd DeLamielleure	Sept. 2 vs. East Carolina Nov. 4 at Wake Forest

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Players of the Year

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

OFFENSE

LaMont Jordan, RB, Maryland

There was every reason to wonder if Maryland's LaMont Jordan had played his last college game, given the eternity it took him to reach the locker room after the season-ending loss to Virginia last November 20 that may have cost the Terrapins a bowl bid.

Jordan repeatedly had left the field with injuries, only to return and carry 37 times for a school-record 306 yards and two touchdowns. However, to watch Virginia drive the length of the field for the go-ahead touchdown was difficult. With little left to accomplish individually, Jordan could have called it quits.

"A lot of people came up to me and said, 'You're gone. I know you're leaving,' " Jordan says. "To this day, some people still can't believe I made the decision to come back."

Jordan (5-11, 219), who rushed for 1,632 yards as a junior, feels there is plenty left to accomplish. The ink wasn't dry on the 1999 season before the Terrapins started pushing him for the Heisman.

"Before I got all this publicity, I never would have dreamed of winning the Heisman Trophy," says Jordan, who needs 1,376 yards to become the ACC's all-time leading rusher. (NC State's Ted Brown, 1975-78, holds the record of 4,602.)

Before making a Heisman run, Jordan had to focus on academics, which is why he voluntarily sat out spring drills.

"People will get the wrong impression," he says. "I'm not in big trouble. I just want to make sure that I'm in the best shape academically and physically. I want to go to class to get my degree, not just to be eligible." *—Doug Doughty*

BOB WALDROP / CLEMSON

DEFENSE

Keith Adams, LB, Clemson

If he couldn't inherit his father's 6-3 height, Clemson linebacker Keith Adams is happy that some of his father's football genes were passed along.

Julius Adams, a former defensive lineman for the New England Patriots, towers over his 5-11 son. So do a lot of players, but that's not the point.

"I never worry about my height," Adams says. "It's all about being a playmaker."

No defensive player in the ACC made more plays last season than Adams, who led the conference in tackles with 186, including an ACC-record 35 for losses, and 16 sacks.

Normally, it's the 6-4 and 6-5 defensive linemen who pile up the sacks. Adams is an inside linebacker who stays at home in most schemes.

Adams' short stature didn't scare away recruiters when he was at Westlake High in College Park, Ga. He visited Clemson and Boston College and canceled trips to Tennessee and Georgia. The Tigers thought enough of him to play him as a true freshman.

"I knew my time would come," Adams says. "I felt like I was going to be a starter (as a sophomore), but I can't say I expected those kind of numbers."

Adams closed out the regular season with a school-record, 27-tackle effort against South Carolina. Clemson defensive coordinator Reggie Herring gave Adams the nickname "Termite" because of the way Adams ate his way through opposing backfields.

"That's what most everybody calls me, except for the people who started calling me 'Terminate,' " Adams says. *—Doug Doughty*

Atlantic Coast

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing
returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Thomas Jones, Virginia, Sr.	11	334	1,798	5.4	16	163.5
2. LaMont Jordan, Maryland, Jr.	**11**	**266**	**1,632**	**6.1**	**16**	**148.4**
3. Morgan Kane, Wake Forest, Sr.	11	275	1,161	4.2	10	105.6
4. Travis Zachery, Clemson, So.	**10**	**184**	**827**	**4.5**	**16**	**82.7**
5. Sean Gregory, Georgia Tech, So.	**11**	**172**	**837**	**4.9**	**13**	**76.1**
6. Travis Minor, Florida State, Jr.	**11**	**180**	**815**	**4.5**	**7**	**74.1**
7. Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech, Sr.	11	154	738	4.8	6	67.1
8. Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson, So.	**9**	**137**	**580**	**4.2**	**4**	**64.4**
9. Rahshon Spikes, NC State, Sr.	12	140	636	4.5	4	53.0
10. Ray Robinson, NC State, So.	**11**	**112**	**438**	**3.9**	**3**	**39.8**

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech, Sr.	11	305	203	.666	11	3,060	10.0	29	175.0
2. Chris Weinke, Florida State, Jr.	**11**	**377**	**232**	**.615**	**14**	**3,103**	**8.2**	**25**	**145.1**
3. Dan Ellis, Virginia, Jr.	**10**	**258**	**156**	**.605**	**10**	**2,050**	**7.9**	**20**	**145.0**
4. Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson, So.	**9**	**195**	**111**	**.569**	**5**	**1,501**	**7.7**	**9**	**131.7**
5. Ben Sankey, Wake Forest, Sr.	11	224	133	.594	9	1,496	6.7	9	120.7
6. Calvin McCall, Maryland, Fr.	**9**	**179**	**93**	**.519**	**3**	**1,264**	**7.1**	**5**	**117.1**
7. Jamie Barnette, NC State, Sr.	12	338	171	.506	9	2,320	6.9	13	115.6
8. Kevin Thompson, Duke, Sr.	11	80	35	.438	2	411	5.1	3	94.3

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Peter Warrick, Florida State, Sr.	9	71	934	8	7.9	13.2
2. Rod Gardner, Clemson, Jr.	**11**	**73**	**1,009**	**4**	**6.6**	**13.8**
3. Kelly Campbell, Georgia Tech, So.	**11**	**69**	**1,105**	**10**	**6.3**	**16.0**
4. Brian Wofford, Clemson, Sr.	11	54	646	3	4.9	11.9
5. Scottie Montgomery, Duke, Sr.	11	51	819	5	4.6	16.1
6. Chris Coleman, NC State, Sr.	10	41	487	1	4.1	11.9
7. Koren Robinson, NC State, Fr.	**12**	**48**	**853**	**2**	**4.0**	**17.8**
8. Dez White, Georgia Tech, Jr.	11	44	860	5	4.0	19.6
9. Ron Dugans, Florida State, Sr.	11	43	644	3	3.9	14.9
10. Richmond Flowers, Duke, Jr.	**11**	**42**	**649**	**5**	**3.8**	**15.5**

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing School (NCAA rank)	YPG	Passing School (NCAA rank)	YPG	Total School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Maryland (12)	231.4	1. Florida State (12)	302.9	1. Georgia Tech (1)	509.4
2. Georgia Tech (13	226.0	2. Georgia Tech (16)	283.4	2. Florida State (12)	425.7
3. Virginia (18)	191.5	3. Clemson (31)	246.6	3. Clemson (36)	403.6
4. Wake Forest (32)	175.7	4. Duke (65)	234.9	4. Virginia (38)	402.5
5. Clemson (44)	157.0	5. NC State (58)	211.4	5. Maryland (54)	375.0
6. North Carolina (64)	144.1	6. Virginia (59)	211.0	6. NC State (86)	324.8
7. Florida State (83)	122.8	7. Maryland (99)	143.6	7. Wake Forest (91	317.1
8. NC State (92)	113.4	8. Wake Forest (101)	141.4	8. Duke (95)	308.6
9. Duke (111)	73.6	9. North Carolina (106)	132.5	9. North Carolina (106)	276.6

Defense

Rushing School (NCAA rank)	YPG	Passing School (NCAA rank)	Points	Total School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Florida State (10)	98.8	1. Florida State (15)	105.3	1. Florida State (19)	304.6
2. Wake Forest (35)	121.4	2. Clemson (17)	105.6	2. Wake Forest (26)	320.4
3. Maryland (39)	126.4	3. Wake Forest (26)	109.7	3. Clemson (35)	337.8
4. Clemson (44)	135.5	4. NC State (37)	112.8	4. NC State (51)	359.4
5. NC State (69)	157.3	5. North Carolina (51)	115.4	5. Maryland (62)	373.8
6. Virginia (78)	166.5	6. Georgia Tech (69)	124.5	6. North Carolina (63)	374.0
7. Duke (88)	181.5	7. Duke (75)	126.2	7. Virginia (90)	394.5
8. Georgia Tech (89)	183.2	8. Maryland (88)	131.2	8. Georgia Tech (100)	413.8
9. North Carolina (95)	190.7	9. Virginia (89)	132.3	9. Duke (103)	422.6

1 Florida State

NATIONAL RANK 2

Coach: Bobby Bowden (231-53-4, 24 years; 304-85-4 overall, 34 years)
Offensive coordinator: Mark Richt (7th season)
Defensive coordinator: Mickey Andrews (17th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 61
Site: Tallahassee, Fla.
Stadium: Doak Campbell (grass, 80,000)
Last league title won: 1999
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1981
1999 TSN rank: 1
1999 record: 12-0 (beat Virginia Tech in Sugar Bowl). ACC: 8-0/1st

1999 Results

Louisiana Tech, W, 41-7
Georgia Tech, W, 41-35
NC State, W, 42-11
at North Carolina, W, 42-10
Duke, W, 51-23
Miami (Fla.), W, 31-21
Wake Forest, W, 33-10
at Clemson, W, 17-14
at Virginia, W, 35-10
Maryland, W, 49-10
at Florida, W, 30-23
Virginia Tech, W, 46-29

Schedule

A26—Brigham Young*
S9—at Georgia Tech
S16—North Carolina
S23—Louisville
S28—at Maryland
O7—at Miami
O14—Duke
O21—Virginia
O28—at NC State
N4—Clemson
N11—at Wake Forest
N18—Florida
*at Jacksonville, Fla.

Offensive philosophy: NC State and Georgia Tech led the ACC in total offense in each of the past two seasons, but when thinking offense in this league, you still think Florida State. The Seminoles led the conference in total offense for five straight seasons (1993-97) and set a record with 551.5 yards per game in 1995. They have not changed fundamentally since that time. Coach Bobby Bowden has handed over the play-calling to offensive coordinator Mark Richt, but the Seminoles still like to spread the field and take advantage of their quickness.

Offensive stars: QB Chris Weinke, who will be 28 when the season begins, clearly went against the grain when he announced at a news conference that he would be returning for his senior year. When considering the alternatives, it's a big lift to have a quarterback who passed for more than 3,000 yards and 25 touchdowns last year and has a national championship under his belt. TB Travis Minor, who probably would have been the focal point of the offense had Weinke decided not to return, will bid for his first 1,000-yard rushing year as a senior.

Offensive concerns: Weinke will be without his three top targets at the start of last year—Peter Warrick, Laveranues Coles and Ron Dugans. Of course, FSU played most of last season without Coles, who was dismissed as the result of an unauthorized shopping spree that earned Warrick a two-game suspension. But the 'Noles will have to find a game-breaker to replace Warrick. Also, T Ross Brannon and G Jerry Carmichael must overcome spring knee surgeries.

Defensive philosophy: Defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews is as aggressive in his game plan as the team's offensive coaches are. This year, he'll be joined by ex-Georgia coordinator Joe Kines, who takes over as linebackers coach in place of Chuck Amato, the new head coach at NC State. Florida State will blitz at will and dare teams to beat man-to-man coverage.

Defensive stars: Florida State has the best collection of ends in the country in Jamal Reynolds, Roland Seymour and David Warren. The talented Warren hasn't yet started at FSU, but he would be an All-American by now at most other schools. SS Derrick Gibson and LB Brian Allen also are forces.

Defensive concerns: First-team All-ACC LB Tommy Polley underwent reconstructive knee surgery after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the Sugar Bowl. It is hoped he will be available by fall practice, but at what degree of effectiveness is uncertain. Florida State also has to replace its primary run stoppers, fellow first-team All-ACC selections Corey Simon and Jerry Johnson, at defensive tackle.

Special teams: The likely successor to first-round draft pick K Sebastian Janikowski is Brett Cimorelli, who boomed 54- and 55-yard field goals as a senior in high school and had only two kickoffs that were returned. P Keith Cottrell returns for his junior year after averaging 42.8 yards as a junior. Finding a punt returner with Warrick's explosiveness won't be easy.

Head coach: Bowden shows no signs of slowing down, winning his second national championship several months after turning 70. Bowden is more of an overseer at this point in his career, which speaks volumes about the quality of his staff.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

They knew: *Though right corner Tay Cody made just 29 tackles last season, there was a good reason: Opponents feared throwing his way.*

Schedule: The Seminoles open with Brigham Young in the Pigskin Classic on August 26 in Jacksonville, Fla., which gives them two weeks to prepare for their trip to Georgia Tech for the second game. As usual, the biggest hurdles to a national championship will come October 7, when FSU goes to Miami, and November 18, when Florida comes to Doak Campbell Stadium.

Bottom line: It appears the Seminoles will receive less competition in the ACC than usual, so a seventh outright conference championship to go along with two shared titles should be in the offing. And Weinke's return guarantees Florida State will receive heavy consideration for another national championship.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Robert Morgan	6-0	180	Jr.	Anquan Boldin	6-2	205	So.
T	**Brett Williams**	**6-6**	**320**	**So.**	Donald Heaven	6-5	305	Sr.
G	**Justin Amman**	**6-4**	**305**	**Sr.**	Todd Williams	6-6	300	So.
C	Jarad Moon	6-4	300	Sr.	Antoine Mirambeau	6-4	280	So.
G	Montrae Holland	6-3	325	So.	Otis Duhart	6-4	290	So.
T	**Tarlos Thomas**	**6-5**	**310**	**Jr.**	Char-ron Dorsey	6-7	325	Sr.
TE	**Ryan Sprague**	**6-5**	**260**	**Sr.**	Nick Franklin	6-3	255	Sr.
WR	Marvin Minnis	6-1	185	Sr.	Atrews Bell	5-11	201	Jr.
QB	**Chris Weinke**	**6-5**	**240**	**Sr.**	Marcus Outzen	6-2	220	Sr.
RB	**Travis Minor**	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**	Jeff Chaney	6-0	200	Sr.
FB	William McCray	6-0	225	Jr.	Chad Maeder	6-3	240	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Jamal Reynolds**	**6-4**	**254**	**Sr.**	O.J. Jackson	6-2	255	So.
T	*Kevin Emanuel	6-4	250	Fr.	*Jeff Womble	6-3	295	Fr.
NG	Chris Woods	6-3	250	So.	Rian Cason	6-5	285	So.
E	**Roland Seymour**	**6-4**	**264**	**Sr.**	David Warren	6-5	250	Sr.
OLB	**Tommy Polley**	**6-5**	**233**	**Sr.**	*Kendyll Pope	6-2	212	Fr.
MLB	**Bradley Jennings**	**6-3**	**230**	**Jr.**	Jerel Hudson	6-3	260	So.
OLB	**Brian Allen**	**6-2**	**225**	**Sr.**	Jean Jeune	5-9	195	Sr.
CB	**Clevan Thomas**	**6-0**	**175**	**Sr.**	Malcolm Tatum	6-1	170	So.
SS	**Derrick Gibson**	**6-2**	**200**	**Sr.**	Abdual Howard	6-1	190	Jr.
FS	Chris Hope	6-2	195	Jr.	*B.J. Ward	6-4	200	Fr.
CB	**Tay Cody**	**5-11**	**180**	**Sr.**	*Rufus Brown	5-10	185	Fr.

Special Teams

K	Brett Cimorelli	6-4	220	Fr.	P	**Keith Cottrell**	**6-4**	**205**	**Jr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

2 Clemson

NATIONAL RANK 23

Coach: Tommy Bowden (6-6, 1 year; 24-10 overall, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Rich Rodriguez (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Reggie Herring (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 6 **Lettermen lost:** 12
Lettermen returning: 53
Site: Clemson, S.C.
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 81,473)
Last league title won: 1991
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 40
1999 record: 6-6 (lost to Mississippi State in Peach Bowl). ACC: 5-3/T2nd.

1999 Results

Marshall, L, 13-10
Virginia, W, 33-14
at Virginia Tech, L, 31-11
North Carolina, W, 31-20
at NC State, L, 35-31
at Maryland, W, 42-30
Florida State, L, 17-14
at Wake Forest, W, 12-3
Duke, W, 58-7
at Georgia Tech, L, 45-42
South Carolina, W, 31-21
Mississippi State, L, 17-7

Schedule

S2—The Citadel
S9—Missouri
S16—Wake Forest
S23—at Virginia
S30—at Duke
O7—NC State
O14—Maryland
O21—at North Carolina
O28—Georgia Tech
N4—at Florida State
N18—South Carolina

Offensive philosophy: The ACC team Clemson most resembles offensively is Florida State, no big surprise considering Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden is the father and mentor of Tigers coach Tommy Bowden. Tommy Bowden, in his first year, displayed the most wide-open offense Clemson fans have seen, and that was with players recruited largely by predecessor Tommy West.

Offensive stars: QB Woodrow Dantzler played in only nine regular-season games, starting five, but passed for more than 1,500 yards. He also rushed for 580 yards and is the closest thing the ACC has to the departed Joe Hamilton. The Tigers are touting 6-4 WR Rod Gardner as an All-American candidate after he caught 73 passes for 1,009 yards last year. TB Travis Zachery's 16 rushing TDs tied for the ACC lead.

Offensive concerns: For all of its apparent firepower last season, Clemson managed only one touchdown in four of its games. The departure of WRs Brian Wofford and Mal Lawyer will enable opponents to devote much more attention to Gardner. Clemson returns all five starters on the offensive line, but it was a young, inconsistent group last year.

Defensive philosophy: Bowden made the wise decision of retaining coordinator Reggie Herring from West's staff, although it didn't hurt that Herring had Florida State ties. In the past two years, Clemson gave up 400 yards or more in only one game, a 45-42 loss to a Georgia Tech team that finished first in Division I-A in total offense in 1999. Clemson had 45 sacks last year in a league in which no one else had more than 30.

Defensive stars: At 5-11, 220, OLB Keith Adams isn't the model pass rusher, but he had a dream season last year, with 176 tackles, 33 tackles for loss and 16 sacks. He led the ACC in all three categories and set a league record for tackles for loss. Adams, the ACC defensive player of the year, was joined on the All-ACC first team by FS Robert Carswell, who tied for the conference lead with six interceptions.

Defensive concerns: The Tigers will miss CB Dextra Polite, whose 16 pass break-ups ranked second in the ACC. Clemson will have first-time starters at cornerback (Brian Mance) and strong safety, although Charles Hafley received considerable playing time last year as the backup to DoMarco Fox.

Special teams: A shaky kicking game undermined Clemson in its bid to knock off three teams that finished the regular season undefeated—Marshall, Virginia Tech and Florida State. Tony Lazzara will have to fight for his job after going 7-of-11 on field goals. Recruit Aaron Hunt will get a long look in the fall, and the Tigers also need to find a punter to replace Ryan Romano, who decided to enter medical school. Kickoff specialist Jamie Somaini is one of the candidates for that job.

Head coach: Bowden, coming off a '98 season at Tulane in which he was 11-0, was named ACC coach of the year last year after guiding a Clemson team that tied for eighth in '98 into a second-place tie in '99. There was reason to believe the Tigers were on the verge of becoming a good team even during their 3-8 season in '98, but it took Bowden's offensive command and leadership to restore their winning ways.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Big numbers: *Dantzler averaged 209 yards a game in total offense last season, including a school-record 435-yard effort against Maryland.*

Schedule: Clemson has seven home games and a non-conference schedule that will be much easier. The Tigers open against The Citadel and Missouri before beginning their ACC schedule with a third consecutive home game, against Wake Forest. Last year, Clemson's first two non-conference games were against Marshall and Virginia Tech.

Bottom line: Clemson should be 3-0 when it goes to Virginia, where the Tigers traditionally have played well. Then, it's on Duke, followed by home games with North Carolina State and Maryland. The Tigers could be 7-0 when they visit North Carolina on October 21, and it's not a total stretch to think they might be 9-0 before a November 4 game at Florida State.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Justin Watts**	**6-0**	**202**	**Sr.**	Jackie Robinson	6-1	190	So.
T	**Akil Smith**	**6-4**	**280**	**Jr.**	Brady Washburn	6-5	285	So.
G	**T.J. Watkins**	**6-3**	**275**	**Jr.**	Will Merritt	6-3	260	Jr.
C	**Kyle Young**	**6-3**	**270**	**Jr.**	*Jermyn Chester	6-2	263	Fr.
G	**Theo Mougros**	**6-2**	**275**	**Sr.**	*Nick Black	6-5	280	Fr.
T	**John McDermott**	**6-6**	**285**	**Sr.**	Gary Byrd	6-4	290	So.
TE	Pat Cyrgalis	6-1	242	So.	Jason LeMay	6-4	235	So.
WR	**Rod Gardner**	**6-4**	**215**	**Sr.**	Matt Bailey	6-4	220	Jr.
QB	Woodrow Dantzler	5-11	200	Jr.	*Willie Simmons	6-0	190	Fr.
RB	**Travis Zachery**	**6-0**	**190**	**Jr.**	Bernard Rambert	6-0	200	So.
FB	Terry Witherspoon	5-11	265	Sr.	*Chad Jamin	5-10	220	Fr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Nick Eason	6-4	255	So.	Bryant McNeal	6-5	235	So..
T	**Terry Jolly**	**6-2**	**290**	**Sr.**	Gary Childress	6-3	270	Sr.
T	**Jason Holloman**	**6-3**	**285**	**Sr.**	Jovon Bush	6-5	300	Jr.
E	**Terry Bryant**	**6-4**	**275**	**Sr.**	*Marcus Lewis	6-2	250	Fr.
OLB	Altroy Bodrick	6-0	215	Jr.	**Braxton Williams**	**6-2**	**215**	**Sr.**
MLB	**Chad Carson**	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**	Rodney Thomas	6-0	225	So.
OLB	**Keith Adams**	**5-11**	**220**	**Jr.**	Kenzi Ross	6-2	220	Sr.
CB	**Alex Ardley**	**5-10**	**170**	**Jr.**	*Kevin Johnson	6-0	185	Fr.
SS	Charles Hafley	6-1	195	Jr.	Eric Meekins	6-2	190	So.
FS	**Robert Carswell**	**6-0**	**215**	**Sr.**	Chad Speck	6-0	215	Sr.
CB	Brian Mance	5-11	185	So.	Darrel Crutchfield	6-0	180	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Tony Lazzara**	**5-9**	**185**	**So.**	**P**	**Jamie Somaini**	**6-1**	**230**	**Sr.**

More on Clemson at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/clemson/ AOL keyword: TSN

3 North Carolina

NATIONAL RANK 34

Coach: Carl Torbush (11-13, 2 years; 14-21 overall, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Mike O'Cain (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Ken Browning (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 47
Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.
Stadium: Kenan Memorial (grass, 60,000)
Last league title won: 1980
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 80
1999 record: 3-8. ACC: 2-6/T8th

1999 Results

Virginia, L, 20-17
at Indiana, W, 42-30
Florida State, L, 42-10
at Clemson, L, 31-20
at Georgia Tech, L, 31-24
Houston, L, 20-12
at Maryland, L, 45-7
Furman, L, 28-3
Wake Forest, L, 19-3
NC State, W, 10-6
Duke, W, 38-0

Schedule

S2—Tulsa
S9—at Wake Forest
S16—at Florida State
S23—Marshall
S30—Georgia Tech
O14—NC State
O21—Clemson
O28—at Virginia
N4—at Pittsburgh
N11—Maryland
N18—at Duke

Offensive philosophy: Given a reprieve when the Tar Heels defeated North Carolina State and Duke in their last two games, Carl Torbush fired offensive coordinator Steve Marshall and hired ousted NC State coach Mike O'Cain as Marshall's replacement. O'Cain did not call the plays at State and was not the Wolfpack's offensive coordinator when he was promoted to head coach, but his teams generally played an entertaining style and in 1998 led the ACC in total offense.

Offensive stars: TE Alge Crumpler made first-team All-ACC last year without catching a touchdown pass. That should change this year with the return of QB Ronald Curry, who played in fewer than five games before suffering a ruptured Achilles' tendon but still led the Tar Heels in total offense. Team-leading rusher Danny Davis gained only 303 yards, which creates an opportunity for freshman Willie Parker, who was impressive in the spring after redshirting last fall.

Offensive concerns: If Curry continues to have problems with his Achilles', the Tar Heels are looking at a repeat of last year, when four quarterbacks started games and Carolina completed six touchdown passes all season. The line deserved its share of the blame for the poor showing last year, when the Tar Heels ranked 106th of 114 Division I-A teams in total offense. That's why Torbush hired line coach Robbie Caldwell off O'Cain's staff.

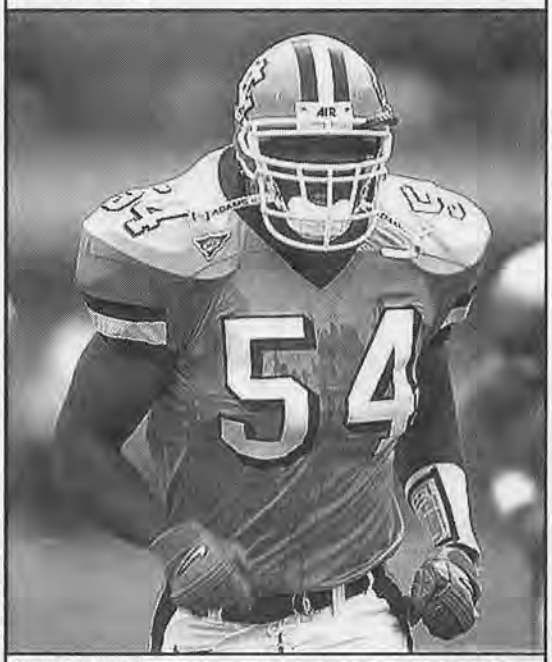
Defensive philosophy: Torbush made his name and ultimately was named Mack Brown's successor because of the attacking style he favored as a defensive coordinator. Torbush first served as his own defensive coordinator but has handed over those duties to Ken Browning. Defense wasn't a problem last year, at least not late in the season. Carolina held its final three opponents to 257, 309 and 222 yards.

Defensive stars: Brandon Spoon, a preseason All-ACC choice who suffered a torn biceps tendon in the second game, elected to return for a fifth year and will anchor a talented crew of linebackers, including Merceda Perry and Sedrick Hodge. DE Julius Peppers had an outstanding freshman year even before the nation became aware of him as a sixth man for the Tar Heels' Final Four basketball team.

Defensive concerns: Although S Billy-Dee Greenwood quietly put together a solid season that included 118 tackles and seven pass break-ups, the secondary, relatively speaking, is Carolina's biggest question mark defensively. Peppers was the only Carolina player with more than three sacks.

Special teams: Carolina's problems in other areas obscured its quality kicking game last year. K Josh McGee was solid, and Brian Schmitz was first-team All-ACC punter. Signee Blake Ferguson, who kicked 57- and 51-yard field goals and averaged 42 yards on punts, probably will get a shot at both vacant jobs. Carolina was last in the ACC with an average of 3.2 yards on punt returns; no other team was under 7.4.

Head coach: Torbush was in the process of negotiating a buyout, according to reports, before the Tar Heels routed Duke, 38-0, in the season finale to save his job. He probably can't afford another 3-8 season, but that's unlikely with Curry and Spoon returning. It helped Torbush that the players supported him during the rough times.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Stepping up: *Perry emerged in his first year as a starter, finishing second on the team in tackles and first in quarterback pressures.*

Schedule: Carolina has caught some flak over a weak non-conference schedule that includes Tulsa, Marshall and Pittsburgh. But Tulsa's Conference USA colleague, Houston, won at Kenan Stadium last year. So did I-AA Furman. Plus, Marshall won at Clemson. But UNC has the talent to go 3-0 outside the league.

Bottom line: Carolina was sixth in the ACC last year in total defense but showed signs late of having the kind of dominating defensive team that helped to produce three seasons of 10 wins or more during the 1990s. Look for North Carolina to return to postseason play after making seven straight trips between 1992-98.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Bosley Allen	6-1	190	So.	Sam Aiken	6-2	190	So.
T	Louis Marchetti	6-6	280	Sr.	*Greg Woofter	6-5	265	Fr.
G	Cam Holland	6-2	305	Sr.	*Jupiter Wilson	6-2	300	Fr.
C	Adam Metts	6-0	270	Jr.	*Marcus Wilson	6-2	270	Fr.
G	Isaac Morford	6-3	300	So.	Don Peters	6-2	305	So.
T	James Wagstaff	6-3	360	Sr.	Bryant Malloy	6-3	310	So.
TE	**Alge Crumpler**	**6-3**	**255**	**Sr.**	Dauntaé Finger	6-3	265	Sr.
WR	**Kory Bailey**	**6-1**	**190**	**Jr.**	Danny Davis	6-0	190	Jr.
QB	**Ronald Curry**	**6-2**	**200**	**Jr.**	Antwon Black	5-11	190	Sr.
RB	*Willie Parker	5-10	195	Fr.	Dante Thorogood	5-7	175	Sr.
FB	**Anthony Saunders**	**6-1**	**225**	**Jr.**	Ronnie Robinson	6-1	245	Sr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Julius Peppers**	**6-6**	**270**	**So.**	Malcolm Stewart	6-3	225	So.
T	**Ryan Sims**	**6-4**	**285**	**Jr.**	Eric Davis	6-3	260	So.
T	Anthony Perkins	6-5	260	Jr.	Willie Quick	6-3	280	Jr.
E	**Ross McAllister**	**6-5**	**255**	**Sr.**	Joey Evans	6-5	265	Jr.
OLB	**Sedrick Hodge**	**6-4**	**235**	**Sr.**	Quincy Monk	6-4	240	Jr.
MLB	**Brandon Spoon**	**6-2**	**245**	**Sr.**	Robert Harris	6-1	225	So.
OLB	**Merceda Perry**	**6-4**	**245**	**Sr.**	David Thornton	6-2	210	Sr.
CB	Michael Waddell	5-11	170	So.	*David Scott	5-10	165	Fr.
SS	**David Bomar**	**5-11**	**190**	**Sr.**	*Dexter Reid	5-11	180	Fr.
FS	**B.D. Greenwood**	**6-2**	**185**	**Jr.**	DeFonte Coleman	6-1	215	So.
CB	**Errol Hood**	**5-11**	**195**	**Jr.**	Kevin Knight	5-8	175	So.

Special Teams

K	Jeff Reed	6-0	200	Sr.
P	Blake Ferguson	6-0	170	Fr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

4 Virginia

NATIONAL RANK 41

Coach: George Welsh (128-80-3, 18 years; 183-126-4 overall, 27 years)
Offensive coordinator: Gary Tranquill (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Rick Lantz (10th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 23
Lettermen returning: 34
Site: Charlottesville, Va.
Stadium: Scott (grass, 61,500)
Last league title won: 1995 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 42
1999 record: 7-5 (lost to Illinois in Micronpc.com Bowl). ACC: 5-3/T2nd

1999 Results

at North Carolina, W, 20-17
at Clemson, L, 33-14
Wake Forest, W, 35-7
at BYU, W, 45-40
Virginia Tech, L, 31-7
Duke, L, 24-17
at NC State, W, 47-26
Florida State, L, 35-10
Georgia Tech, W, 45-38
Buffalo, W, 50-21
at Maryland, W, 34-30
Illinois, L, 63-21

Schedule

S2—Brigham Young
S9—Richmond
S16—at Duke
S23—Clemson
S30—at Wake Forest
O7—Maryland
O21—at Florida State
O28—North Carolina
N9—at Georgia Tech
N18—NC State
N25—at Virginia Tech

Offensive philosophy: Thomas Jones set an ACC record with 1,798 rushing yards last year, the fourth 1,000-yard season by a Virginia running back in the last five. It is unlikely Virginia will have a 1,000-yard rusher this year, not because of any change in philosophy but because the Cavaliers likely will have a tailback by committee with juniors Antwoine Womack and Tyree Foreman and sophomore Arlen Harris. Womack, a second-team All-ACC selection in 1998 as Jones' backup, sat out '99 to deal with academic and personal matters.

Offensive stars: Virginia fans haven't completely warmed to senior QB Dan Ellis, the eighth-rated passer in Division I-A last year. Ellis tossed 20 touchdown passes, one shy of the school record, despite missing a game. Billy Baber is one of the top tight ends in the country, and sophomore WR Billy McMullen is a rising star. McMullen and Kevin Coffey combined for 13 touchdown receptions last year.

Offensive concerns: An injury to Baber, who required surgery for a broken hand, left the Cavaliers with one scholarship tight end (Chris Luzar) in the spring. The only backups to starting FB Patrick Washington were a pair of walk-ons. Baber, Womack and starting G Evan Routzahn (broken hand) missed all or part of spring drills. OT Jermese Jones continues to fight the knee problems that caused him to miss the '99 season.

Defensive philosophy: The Cavaliers had one of the most solid defensive teams in the ACC until the end of last season, when they gave up 514 yards in a victory over Maryland and then were blitzed by Illinois in the Micronpc.com Bowl. Coordinator Rick Lantz also will coach the linebackers, which he had done earlier in his tenure, and running backs coach Bob Price was reassigned to the secondary.

Defensive stars: OLB Byron Thweatt played in every game last year despite a painful shoulder condition that limited him to 66 tackles, down from 97 and 99 in his first two seasons. At full strength, he is one of the best linebackers in the ACC. The heart of the defense is a linebacking corps that includes Thweatt, '99 leading tackler Yubrenal Isabelle and Donny Green, who returns after a year's academic suspension. And don't forget about Angelo Crowell, one of the best young players in the program and the brother of Detroit Lions WR Germane Crowell.

Defensive concerns: The Cavaliers were last in the ACC in pass efficiency defense last year and lost three starters, including S Chris Williams, who was declared academically ineligible after starting 11 games as a redshirt freshman. Possible cornerbacks include converted wide receiver Ahmad Hawkins and ex-basketball player Chezley Watson.

Special teams: The Cavaliers thought so much of David Greene, their kickoff specialist for two seasons, that Todd Braverman was not invited back for a fifth year after making 20-of-30 field goals over two seasons. Mike Abrams, who has yet to attempt a punt in his career, hopes to justify the faith the Cavaliers showed when they offered him a scholarship out of high school.

Head coach: George Welsh, entering his 19th season as the Cavaliers' coach, vowed to "reinvent the corporation" after a 63-21 loss to Illinois in the Micronpc.com Bowl. He made changes involving six of his nine assistants, but no one lost his job.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Good hands: *Coffey (88) is a possession-type receiver for a Cavaliers' squad that will feature one of the ACC's top pass-catching corps.*

Schedule: Going into the season, the Cavaliers might be favored in their first six games. A game against Virginia Tech, however, has returned to the end of the schedule, with Virginia facing the ominous task of visiting QB Michael Vick and the Hokies in Blacksburg.

Bottom line: Virginia won seven or more games in each of the past 13 seasons, a streak that was prolonged last year when the Cavaliers drove 74 yards in the final 1:26 to win 34-30 at Maryland. With a suspect defense, it would be an accomplishment if Virginia makes it 14 years in a row.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Kevin Coffey**	**6-4**	**200**	**Sr.**	Tavon Mason	5-11	176	So.
T	Jermese Jones	6-6	320	Jr.	Josh Lawson	6-5	295	Jr.
G	Josh Lawson	6-5	295	Jr.	Jared Woodson	6-6	282	Jr.
C	Jared Woodson	6-6	282	Jr.	Dustin Keith	6-5	285	Sr.
G	**Evan Routzahn**	**6-5**	**314**	**Jr.**	Butch Jefferson	6-4	288	So.
T	**Brad Barnes**	**6-7**	**295**	**Sr.**	Mike Mullins	6-7	278	So.
TE	**Billy Baber**	**6-4**	**255**	**Sr.**	Chris Luzar	6-7	246	Jr.
WR	Billy McMullen	6-4	195	So.	James Johnson	6-1	188	So.
QB	**Dan Ellis**	**6-2**	**207**	**Sr.**	*Matt Schaub	6-5	223	Fr.
RB	Arlen Harris	5-11	205	So.	Tyree Foreman	5-11	220	Jr.
FB	**Patrick Washington**	**6-3**	**235**	**Sr.**	*Kase Luzar	6-2	226	Fr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Merrill Robertson	6-1	242	So.	*Terrell Ricks	6-5	250	Fr.
T	George Stanley	6-2	289	Jr.	*Larry Simmons	6-2	260	Fr.
T	**Monsanto Pope**	**6-3**	**265**	**Jr.**	Colin McWeeny	6-4	270	So.
E	**Ljubomir Stamenich**	**6-3**	**253**	**Jr.**	Devon Battle	6-4	239	So.
OLB	**Byron Thweatt**	**6-2**	**233**	**Sr.**	*Beau Dickerson	6-1	210	Fr.
MLB	**Yubrenal Isabelle**	**6-1**	**237**	**Sr.**	William Clark	6-1	223	Jr.
OLB	Angelo Crowell	6-1	209	So.	*R.C. Cosby	6-1	219	Fr.
CB	Tim Spruill	5-10	175	Sr.	Chezley Watson	6-2	207	Jr.
SS	**Jerton Evans**	**5-11**	**186**	**So.**	*Ryan Sawyer	6-2	194	Fr.
FS	Shernard Newby	6-1	208	So.	Jermaine Lauzon	6-3	196	Jr.
CB	Rashad Roberson	5-11	190	So.	Ahmad Hawkins	5-10	185	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**David Greene**	**5-10**	**178**	**Jr.**	**P**	Mike Abrams	6-4	236	Jr.

5 Maryland

NATIONAL RANK 44

Coach: Ron Vanderlinden (10-23, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bob Heffner (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Wally Ake (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 33
Site: College Park, Md.
Stadium: Byrd (grass, 48,055)
Last league title won: 1985
Last bowl appearance: 1990
1999 TSN rank: 57
1999 record: 5-6. ACC: 2-6/T8th

1999 Results

at Temple, W, 6-0
Western Carolina, W, 51-10
West Virginia, W, 33-0
at Georgia Tech, L, 49-31
at Wake Forest, W, 17-14
Clemson, L, 42-30
North Carolina, W, 45-7
Duke, L, 25-22
at NC State, L, 30-17
at Florida State, L, 49-10
Virginia, L, 34-30

Schedule

S9—Temple
S16—at West Virginia
S23—Middle Tenn. State
S28—Florida State
O7—at Virginia
O14—at Clemson
O21—Wake Forest
O28—at Duke
N4—NC State
N11—at North Carolina
N18—Georgia Tech

Offensive philosophy: The Terrapins changed offensive coordinators in 1999, with tackles and tight ends coach Bob Heffner replacing quarterbacks coach Craig Johnson, and there was a corresponding shift to a run-oriented attack. That might have happened anyway, given the talents of RB LaMont Jordan and the inexperience of QBs Calvin McCall, Latrez Harrison and Trey Evans. Look for Maryland to integrate more option into its offense this year, particularly with McCall.

Offensive stars: Jordan, overshadowed to a degree by Virginia's Thomas Jones, rushed for 1,632 yards in a conference that had not produced a 1,400-yard rusher since 1970. The capper came in the regular-season finale against Virginia, when Jordan ran for 306 yards and two touchdowns on an afternoon when the Terps held Jones to 91. C Melvin Fowler is an all-conference candidate, and Matt Kalapinski is one of the ACC's best fullbacks.

Offensive concerns: The Terrapins were in trouble when they had to pass the ball a year ago, particularly after McCall was injured and missed the last two games. Then McCall spent the winter on the Maryland basketball team, tempting coach Ron Vanderlinden to give more consideration to Harrison and junior college transfer Shaun Hill.

Defensive philosophy: Maryland's linebackers always rank among the ACC's tackle leaders, which may be a reflection of the way the Terrapins do their statistics as much as great linebacker play. In '98, seniors Eric Barton and Kendall Ogle ranked 1-2 in the ACC in tackles and there was much speculation about their replacements. However, sophomores Marlon Moore and Aaron Thompson both had more than 100 tackles last season, ranking second and seventh in the ACC. They should get better with experience.

Defensive stars: Kevin Bishop, who plays next to Moore in the middle, was on a 100-tackle pace before suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the ninth game. Bishop had 20 tackles against Clemson, the high for Maryland last season, and should be mentioned in the same breath as Moore and Thompson. Bishop's backup, E.J. Henderson, is close to that group.

Defensive concerns: Teams completed more than 59 percent of their passes against Maryland last year—and that was with first-team all-league CB Lewis Sanders in the lineup. In addition to Sanders, Maryland lost its top pass rushers, DT Delbert Cowsette and OLB Erwyn Lyght, who had six sacks each last year.

Special teams: The Terrapins think they have one of the best kickers in the ACC in Brian Kopka, who was 16-of-21 as a junior and had 26 kickoffs that were not returned. Brooks Barnard, a transfer from Oklahoma, replaced P Sean Starner early in the season and averaged 42.1 yards over the last eight games.

Head coach: Vanderlinden took some flak for early pronouncements that Maryland would move to the top of the ACC standings, particularly after his first two teams went 2-9 and 3-8. Not as many people were laughing last year, when the Terps went 5-6 and came within 90 seconds of a winning season and a bowl bid. Vanderlinden seems to have grown in the job, his first as a head coach at the Division I-A level, and progressively has assembled a better staff.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Wake-up call: *After averaging a point a game and shooting 23 percent from the field, McCall might be wise to dump his hoop dreams.*

Schedule: Maryland was fortunate to slip past Temple in last year's opener, so it is unlikely to look past the Owls, who come to Byrd Stadium for the 2000 opener. An even bigger non-conference game will come in Week 2, when the Terps go to West Virginia. With Middle Tennessee State to follow, Maryland could be 3-0 when Florida State comes calling September 28.

Bottom line: Maryland has improved, but this is still a middle-of-the-pack ACC team that will have to fight for the six victories needed for a winning season and bowl consideration. That's a realistic goal for a team that still has too many holes to crack into the top two or three in the conference.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Omar Cheeseboro	6-2	185	Sr.	Scooter Monroe	6-1	189	So.
T	Tim Howard	6-4	296	Sr.	*Eric Dumas	6-6	288	Fr.
G	**Todd Wike**	**6-3**	**282**	**So.**	*Ed Tyler	6-3	276	Fr.
C	**Melvin Fowler**	**6-3**	**287**	**Jr.**	Sam Marvis	6-3	265	So.
G	Bob Krantz	6-5	283	So.	*Lamar Bryant	6-3	274	Fr.
T	**Matt Crawford**	**6-6**	**290**	**So.**	*Aaron Wormley	6-5	268	Fr.
TE	*Jeff Dugan	6-4	257	Fr.	Mike Hull	6-5	253	Sr.
WR	**Jason Hatala**	**5-10**	**174**	**Sr.**	**Guilian Gary**	**6-0**	**177**	**Jr.**
QB	**Calvin McCall**	**6-3**	**189**	**So.**	Shaun Hill	6-3	229	Jr.
RB	**LaMont Jordan**	**5-11**	**219**	**Sr.**	Mukala Sikyala	5-8	214	Sr.
FB	**Matt Kalapinski**	**6-1**	**224**	**Sr.**	Chad Killian	6-2	232	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	William Shime	6-4	265	So.	*Landon Jones	6-4	251	Fr.
NT	**Charles Hill**	**6-2**	**283**	**Jr.**	Durrand Roundtree	6-3	242	So.
T	Kris Jenkins	6-5	292	Sr.	*Jamar Perrin	6-3	249	Fr.
OLB	Ryan Swift	6-1	231	Jr.	*Mike Whaley	6-1	230	Fr.
ILB	**Marlon Moore**	**6-1**	**221**	**Jr.**	*Leon Joe	6-1	212	Fr.
ILB	**Kevin Bishop**	**6-2**	**227**	**Jr.**	E.J. Henderson	6-2	229	So.
OLB	**Aaron Thompson**	**6-1**	**233**	**Jr.**	*Leroy Ambush	6-1	218	Fr.
CB	*Curome Cox	6-1	192	Fr.	*Andrew Smith	6-0	196	Fr.
SS	**Rod Littles**	**5-11**	**195**	**Jr.**	Tony Jackson	6-1	210	Jr.
FS	**Shawn Forte**	**6-0**	**201**	**Sr.**	Randall Jones	6-2	205	Jr.
CB	Tony Okanlawon	5-11	193	Jr.	Luke Kim	5-9	195	So.

Special Teams

K	**Brian Kopka**	**5-7**	**170**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Brooks Barnard**	**6-2**	**183**	**So.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

6 Georgia Tech

NATIONAL RANK 52

Coach: George O'Leary (36-25, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ralph Friedgen (9th season)
Defensive coordinator: Ted Roof (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 38
Site: Atlanta.
Stadium: Bobby Dodd (grass, 46,000)
Last league title won: 1998 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 21
1999 record: 8-4 (lost to Miami, Fla., in Gator Bowl). ACC: 5-3/T2nd

1999 Results

at Navy, W, 49-14
at Florida State, L, 41-35
Central Florida, W, 41-10
Maryland, W, 49-31
North Carolina, W, 31-24
at Duke, W, 38-31
NC State, W, 48-21
at Virginia, L, 45-38
Clemson, W, 45-42
at Wake Forest, L, 26-23
Georgia, W, 51-48
Miami (Fla.), L, 28-13

Schedule

A27—at Virginia Tech
S2—Central Florida
S9—Florida State
S16—Navy
S21—at NC State
S30—at North Carolina
O14—Wake Forest
O21—Duke
O28—at Clemson
N9—Virginia
N18—at Maryland
N25—at Georgia

Offensive philosophy: Ralph Friedgen is one of the best known (and best paid) offensive coordinators in the college game. In eight seasons under Friedgen, Georgia Tech has had one of the most diversified offenses in the country, although it helped to have multi-talented QB Joe Hamilton at the controls the past three seasons. The Yellow Jackets ranked first in Division I-A in total offense last year with 509.4 yards per game.
Offensive stars: Kelly Campbell came out of nowhere last season to catch 69 passes for 1,105 yards and 10 TDs, leading the league in the latter two categories. Campbell, a first-team All-ACC selection, took over for Dez White as the Yellow Jackets' marquee receiver. Tech also has a pair of outstanding running backs in Joe Burns and Sean Gregory, who rushed for 837 yards after Burns suffered a season-ending injury.
Offensive concerns: Coach George O'Leary had narrowed his choice to one of two quarterbacks by the end of spring drills—junior George Godsey or redshirt freshman Andy Hall—but neither has Hamilton's experience or athletic ability. Godsey was 13-of-32 in two seasons as Hamilton's backup and "is not going to get you in a bad situation," O'Leary says. The Yellow Jackets may need more than that.
Defensive philosophy: Ted Roof returns for his second year as defensive coordinator, the first time in four seasons that Tech has had the same defensive coordinator in back-to-back seasons. Tech had 16 sacks last year after recording 36 in 1998 under previous coordinator Randy Edsall, who left to become head coach at Connecticut. The players said there was no great change in scheme; the execution just wasn't as good.
Defensive stars: E Greg Gathers finished the '99 season with 18 tackles for loss and seven sacks, placing him among the top four in the ACC in both categories. The Yellow Jackets hope that fellow end Felipe Claybrooks can return to the form that helped him record 10 sacks as a part-time player in '98.
Defensive concerns: LB Matt Uremovich finished sixth on the team in tackles, with 54, despite playing in only four games. A spinal condition will keep Uremovich from completing his eligibility, leaving Tech without a tackle machine in the middle. This will be a young defense for the second straight year. Three sophomores, all of whom started last year as true freshmen, will start, and just two seniors are expected to start.
Special teams: Walk-on Dan Dyke averaged 43.8 yards per punt last season, which would have placed him second in the ACC had he had enough attempts to qualify. Dyke punted only 30 times but should have more opportunities this season. Luke Manget made 11-of-16 field goals last season as a freshman, with a long of 49 yards. He could become one of the ACC's best.
Head coach: O'Leary was the ACC's coach of the year in '98 after the Yellow Jackets tied for the league title and finished 10-2. Some of the magic wore off last season, when Georgia Tech lost three of its last five games to finish 8-4. There is an ongoing debate as to whether O'Leary, because of his defensive background, bends over backward in sending his most talented players over to the offense.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Stealth receiver: *Although White had the higher profile, Campbell (above) had the most productive season ever for a Georgia Tech receiver.*

Schedule: The Yellow Jackets agreed to go to Virginia Tech for the season-opening BCA game August 27. Many people wondered why a defense-impaired team would set itself up for a slaughter by QB Michael Vick and the Hokies, but O'Leary agreed to the extra game because of the baptism it will give his untested quarterbacks. Tech also has non-conference home games with Central Florida and Navy.
Bottom line: It will be interesting to see what becomes of this team in the post-Hamilton era. Tech had one winning season in the five years before Hamilton's installation as starting quarterback, and three straight winning seasons with him. Another winning season is a realistic goal, but keep in mind the extra game means Tech needs to win seven games to go to a bowl.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jon Muyres	6-2	199	Sr.	Kerry Watkins	5-11	186	So.
T	**Chris Brown**	**6-6**	**315**	**Sr.**	Jason Kemble	6-4	299	Jr.
G	*Clay Hartley	6-3	280	Fr.	R. Roberts-Blake	6-2	273	So.
C	David Schmidgall	6-2	275	Sr.	*Hugh Reilly	6-4	270	Fr.
G	**Brent Key**	**6-4**	**280**	**Sr.**	Ashley Henderson	6-3	275	So.
T	*John Bennett	6-5	290	Fr.	Dustin Vaitekunas	6-7	314	So.
TE	**Russell Matvay**	**6-4**	**245**	**Jr.**	Will Heller	6-5	241	So.
WR	Kelly Campbell	5-11	170	Jr.	Will Glover	5-10	178	So.
QB	George Godsey	6-2	209	Jr.	*Andy Hall	6-2	190	Fr.
RB	Joe Burns	5-10	205	So.	**Sean Gregory**	**6-0**	**211**	**Jr.**
FB	**Ed Wilder**	**6-2**	**255**	**Sr.**	Gary Johnson	6-1	245	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Greg Gathers**	**6-1**	**255**	**So.**	**Felipe Claybrooks**	**6-4**	**255**	**Sr.**
T	**Merrix Watson**	**6-3**	**285**	**Jr.**	Tony Robinson	6-4	293	Sr.
T	**Guenter Kryszon**	**6-4**	**280**	**Jr.**	Berwin Echols	6-3	296	So.
E	Nick Rogers	6-2	250	Jr.	Kelvin Hughley	6-2	245	So.
OLB	*Ather Brown	6-3	218	Fr.	Cody Price	6-2	230	Jr.
MLB	**Matt Miller**	**6-4**	**245**	**Jr.**	**Ross Mitchell**	**6-2**	**235**	**Jr.**
OLB	**Recardo Wimbush**	**6-1**	**218**	**So.**	*Anthony Lawston	6-3	204	Fr.
CB	Marvious Hester	5-11	166	So.	Troy Tolbert	6-1	195	Sr.
SS	**Chris Young**	**6-0**	**201**	**Jr.**	*Eric Lavette	5-9	185	Fr.
FS	**Jeremy Muyres**	**6-3**	**205**	**So.**	Cory Collins	5-11	180	So.
CB	**Jamara Clark**	**5-8**	**170**	**Sr.**	Selwyn Scott	5-10	170	So.

Special Teams

K	**Luke Manget**	**5-9**	**176**	**So.**	P	**Dan Dyke**	**5-11**	**185**	**So.**

7 NC State

NATIONAL RANK 62

Coach: Chuck Amato (1st season)
Offensive coordinator: Norm Chow (1st season).
Defensive coordinator: Buddy Green (1st season).
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 38
Site: Raleigh, N.C.
Stadium: Carter-Finley (grass, 51,500)
Last league title won: 1979
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 54
1999 record: 6-6. ACC: 3-5/T5th

1999 Results

at Texas, W, 23-20
South Carolina, W, 10-0
William & Mary, W, 38-9
at Florida State, L, 42-11
at Wake Forest, L, 31-7
Clemson, W, 35-31
Virginia, L, 47-26
at Duke, W, 31-24
at Georgia Tech, L, 48-21
Maryland, W, 30-17
North Carolina, L, 10-6
at East Carolina, L, 23-6

Schedule

S2—Arkansas State
S9—at Indiana
S16—SMU
S21—Georgia Tech
O7—at Clemson
O14—at North Carolina
O28—Florida State
N4—at Maryland
N11—Duke
N18—at Virginia
N25—Wake Forest

Offensive philosophy: The obvious conclusion when Chuck Amato got the NC State job was that he would favor the kind of offensive scheme he observed for 18 seasons as an assistant coach to Bobby Bowden at Florida State. It should be noted that Amato coached defense for most of that time, but he left no question about his offensive intentions when he hired Norm Chow as his offensive coordinator. Chow goes to NC State after 22 seasons at pass-happy BYU.

Offensive stars: WR Koren Robinson was named ACC rookie of the year after catching 48 passes for 853 yards, evoking comparisons to Torry Holt, the 1998 ACC player of the year. Robinson had 40 receptions in the last six games, including five 100-yard receiving days. After an injury-plagued sophomore year in which he shared time with Rashon Spikes at tailback, Ray Robinson, a former ACC rookie of the year, can set his sights on his first 1,000-yard season.

Offensive concerns: Jamie Barnette is gone, so the Wolfpack will begin the Amato era with an untested quarterback, either sophomore Jatavis Sanders, who attempted 17 passes last year as Barnette's backup, or Phillip Rivers, who graduated from high school in time to participate in spring drills. The loss of three full-time and one part-time starter on the offensive line makes Amato and Chow even more uneasy.

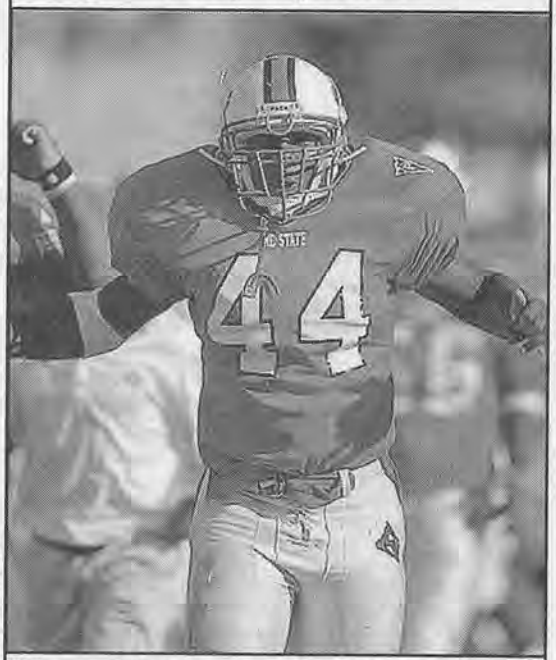
Defensive philosophy: Buddy Green, a former Wolfpack secondary coach, resigned as head coach at Division I-AA Chattanooga to return to NC State as defensive coordinator. Green was well thought of during his first stint at State and was among the candidates to replace Dick Sheridan as coach before the Wolfpack tapped fellow aide Mike O'Cain.

Defensive stars: Levar Fisher got better and better over the course of the '99 season, making 22 tackles over the last two games to finish with 104. Fellow outside linebacker Clayton White had 16 tackles for loss. They will be joined by MLB Edrick Smith, the top tackler among ACC freshmen in 1998 who suffered a season-ending injury in the '99 opener.

Defensive concerns: The Wolfpack must find replacements for CBs Tony Scott, who led the ACC in pass break-ups in '99, and Lloyd Harrison, who led the league in the same category in '98. Harrison was a two-time first-team All-ACC selection. Safeties Brian Williams and Adrian Wilson are capable, but opponents will test the two new corners.

Special teams: The Wolfpack was able to hold onto recruit Austin Herbert from nearby Cary, N.C., after his early commitment, and there's a good chance he'll succeed departed Scott Earwood as the punter. Herbert holds the state high school record with 37 field goals, but Kent Passingham has another season of eligibility after going 9-of-14 as a junior.

Head coach: Maybe the most impressive thing about Amato, a head coach for the first time at 53, was his ability to assemble a quality staff. A $1 million budget didn't hurt, but Amato, who was not a coordinator at Florida State, won't constantly be interfering with his coaches. He will serve as a manager who comes with the reputation of being a diligent recruiter.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Gets around: *Amato, who coached the position at FSU, will appreciate the play of Levar Fisher, perhaps the Wolfpack's most active linebacker.*

Schedule: The Wolfpack opens with three straight non-conference games, including the opener against Arkansas State. Then, it's off to Indiana before Southern Methodist comes to Carter-Finley Stadium. If State gets off to a good start, the atmosphere should be electric September 21 when Georgia Tech visits for a Thursday ESPN game.

Bottom line: The Wolfpack would've had a winning season and qualified for a bowl last season had it won either of its last two games. In fact, had State not come up a yard short on a late fourth-down play against North Carolina in a 10-6 loss, O'Cain still might be the coach. If one of the quarterbacks comes through, Amato would not be dreaming to think his first Wolfpack team might go 7-4.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Koren Robinson**	**6-2**	**200**	**So.**	James Walker	6-0	180	Fr.
T	**Jarvis Borum**	**6-7**	**341**	**Sr.**	*Walker Franklin	6-4	276	Fr.
G	*Chris Colmer	6-5	293	Fr.	William Brown	6-2	270	Jr.
C	Keegan Weir	6-5	282	Jr.	Derek Green	6-3	271	So.
G	Tim Turner	6-6	319	So.	Alex Rice	6-4	311	Sr.
T	Scott Kooistra	6-6	300	So.	*Lonnell Becoate	6-4	287	Fr.
TE	Wille Wright	6-4	213	So.	**Andy Vanderveer**	**6-4**	**240**	**Jr.**
WR	Eric Leak	5-8	190	Sr.	Bryan Peterson	5-10	189	So.
QB	Philip Rivers	6-5	216	Fr.	Jetavis Sanders	5-11	182	So.
RB	**Derek Roberts**	**6-1**	**244**	**Sr.**	Cotra Jackson	5-11	213	So.
HB	Ray Robinson	5-10	202	Jr.	Carlos Doggett	5-10	207	So.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Drew Wimsatt	6-3	238	So.	Brian Jamison	6-2	230	Jr.
T	**Jeff Fisher**	**6-1**	**285**	**Sr.**	Jerrick Hall	6-1	290	So.
T	Darius Bryant	6-1	298	Jr.	**Nate Goodson**	**6-2**	**268**	**Jr.**
E	Corey Smith	6-2	245	Jr.	George Anderson	6-0	244	So.
OLB	**Clayton White**	**6-0**	**225**	**Sr.**	**William Pannell**	**6-3**	**212**	**Jr.**
MLB	**Dantonio Burnette**	**5-10**	**220**	**So.**	Edrick Smith	6-0	245	So.
OLB	**Levar Fisher**	**6-1**	**229**	**Jr.**	Corey Lyons	5-11	196	Jr.
CB	Julius Patterson	5-10	180	So.	Anthony Cason	5-10	182	Jr.
SS	**Adrian Wilson**	**6-3**	**212**	**Jr.**	*Quenton Allen	6-2	194	Fr.
FS	**Brian Williams**	**6-0**	**200**	**So.**	Terrence Holt	6-2	202	So.
CB	J.J. Washington	5-7	176	So.	Marcus Ellerbe	5-7	176	So.

Special Teams

K	**Kent Passingham**	**5-9**	**174**	**Sr.**	*Adam Kiker	6-0	174	Fr.	**P**	Andy Kelly

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

8 Wake Forest

NATIONAL RANK 74

Coach: Jim Caldwell (24-54, 7 years)
Offensive coordinator: Jim Caldwell (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Theo Lemon and Tony Pierce (1st seasons)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 17
Lettermen lost: 30
Lettermen returning: 43
Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.
Stadium: Groves (grass, 31,500)
Last league title won: 1970
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 48
1999 record: 7-5 (beat Arizona State in Aloha Bowl). ACC: 3-5/T5th

1999 Results

at Army, W, 34-15
at Virginia, L, 35-7
N.C. State, W, 31-7
Rutgers, W, 17-10
Maryland, L, 17-14
at Florida State, L, 33-10
UAB, W, 47-3
Clemson, L, 12-3
at North Carolina, W, 19-3
at Duke, L, 48-35
Georgia Tech, W, 26-23
Arizona State, W, 23-3

Schedule

A31—Appalachian State
S9—North Carolina
S16—at Clemson
S30—Virginia
O7—Vanderbilt
O14—at Georgia Tech
O21—at Maryland
N4—Duke
N11—Florida State
N18—at Navy
N25—at NC State

Offensive philosophy: Coach Jim Caldwell decided before spring practice a year ago he wanted to emphasize the running game and not just because the Deacons finished 112th out of 112 Division I-A teams in rushing in 1998. He felt it would make Wake tougher defensively if it had to stop the running game every day in practice. The change sure helped tailback-turned-fullback Morgan Kane, who got his old job back through injury and rushed for 1,161 yards last season.

Offensive stars: It was considered a major recruiting coup in the winter of '98 when quarterback prospect C.J. Leak signed with the Deacons. Leak did not win the starting job from fifth-year senior Ben Sankey last season, as some had predicted, but that was more a reflection of Sankey's maturity and leadership. Ovie Mughelli showed as a freshman he can be a big-time fullback, and anyone would love to have 6-6, 318-pound OT Michael Collins.

Offensive concerns: Sankey was the team's second-leading rusher behind Kane. The top returning ground-gainer, Chris McCoy, rushed for only 128 yards last season and will not have the opportunity to run behind departed offensive linemen Sam Settar, Brian Wolverton and Todd Hollowell. WR Jammie Deese also will be missed.

Defensive philosophy: Defensive line coach Theo Lemon was promoted after the season to co-defensive coordinator, a position he shares with staff newcomer Tony Pierce, who also will coach the defensive backs. They will continue to stress run defense but lack the personnel that enabled the Deacs to finish second in the ACC in total defense under former coordinator James Bell, who left to take the defensive coordinator's job at Indiana.

Defensive stars: DE Bryan Ray, who got his chance when '98 surprise Mat Petz became ineligible, had a breakthrough year and finished second in the ACC in sacks (10) and third in tackles for loss (19). CB Adrian Duncan did not start a game last season but led the team in interceptions. He also had a team-high eight tackles against Arizona State in the Aloha Bowl.

Defensive concerns: Ray and CB Keyshorn Smith are the only returning starters on a defense that didn't do much until last season. Of the six Wake Forest defensive players nominated for All-ACC honors by rival coaches, only Ray returns. Opponents will be tempted to double-team him without proven players elsewhere on the front four.

Special teams: K Tyler Ashe, the Deacons' kickoff specialist for the past two seasons, takes over for Matthew Burdick, who finished his career as Wake's all-time field-goal leader. Matt Brennie will have healthy competition for the punting job from James McPherson, who took over when a back injury sidelined Brennie for the last two games. John Stone (29.9 yards per return) was the nation's third-ranked kickoff return man last year.

Head coach: Caldwell is the only ACC football coach to have had six straight losing seasons and keep his job, but the administration was rewarded for its patience when Wake won the Aloha Bowl and finished 7-5 last season. Caldwell took a more hands-on approach, and the Deacons were much improved.

WAKE FOREST

Let's go: *Leak, one of the most highly regarded prospects in school history, will be given every opportunity to live up to his press clippings.*

Schedule: Wake plays four of its first five games at home, opening with Division I-AA Appalachian State and North Carolina. Appalachian traditionally gives Wake fits, and North Carolina won't be as anemic offensively as it was last year, when the Deacons won 19-3 in Chapel Hill.

Bottom line: Wake is clearly in a rebuilding mode after losing 17 seniors, a majority of them fifth-year seniors. It also has a lot to prove. The Deacons were 3-5 in the ACC last season and have not had a winning record in conference play since 1988. The rest of the ACC will be watching to see if the Caldwell regime is fortified for the long run or if '99 was a one-season wonder.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Ira Williams	6-2	202	Jr.	John Stone	5-11	182	Jr.
T	Chris Blank	6-5	272	Sr.	Blake Henry	6-6	275	So.
G	Mike Moosbrugger	6-7	304	Jr.	Marcus Kisner	6-5	268	Jr.
C	**Vince Azzolina**	**6-4**	**302**	**Jr.**	Tim Bennett	6-4	292	So.
G	Tim Bennett	6-4	292	So.	Jonathan Helms	6-3	280	Jr.
T	**Michael Collins**	**6-6**	**318**	**Jr.**	Seth Houk	6-3	300	Jr.
TE	Ray Thomas	6-4	244	So.	*Josh Warren	6-4	230	Fr.
WR	Jimmy Caldwell	5-10	176	Jr.	Jax Landfried	5-9	167	Jr.
QB	C.J. Leak	6-4	220	So.	*Ricky Perez	6-1	170	Fr.
RB	Jamie Scott	6-0	214	So.	Tarence Williams	5-10	181	So.
FB	**Ovie Mughelli**	**6-2**	**232**	**So.**	Rhamen Love-Lane	6-5	224	Jr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Calvin Pace	6-6	243	So.	Roderick Stephen	6-4	237	So.
T	Montique Sharpe	6-3	265	So.	Da'Vaughn Mellerson	6-5	298	Sr.
T	Nathan Bolling	6-4	270	Jr.	Masanori Toguchi	6-3	286	So.
E	**Bryan Ray**	**6-3**	**250**	**Sr.**	Roderick Stephen	6-4	237	So.
OLB	Ed Kargbookorogie	6-3	215	Jr.	Kellen Brantley	6-3	227	Fr.
ILB	Marquis Hopkins	6-2	248	Jr.	Nick Bender	6-2	225	Sr.
ILB	Jamaal Argrow	6-1	205	So.	Marcus Nesbitt	6-1	220	Fr.
CB	Adrian Duncan	6-1	188	Jr.	Elliot Ivey	6-0	193	So.
SS	Michael Clinkscale	6-1	199	Jr.	Mike Koch	6-2	216	Sr.
FS	Walter Simmons	6-0	190	So.	*Obi Chukwumah	6-2	180	Fr.
CB	**Keyshorn Smith**	**5-10**	**177**	**Jr.**	Chris Justice	5-10	193	Jr.

Special Teams

K	Tyler Ashe	5-11	178	Jr.	P	**Matt Brennie**	**6-2**	**185**	**So.**

9 Duke

NATIONAL RANK 93

Coach: Carl Franks (3-8, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: Carl Franks (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Bob Trott (5th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 13
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 32
Site: Durham, N.C.
Stadium: Wallace Wade (grass, 33,941)
Last league title won: 1989 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1999 TSN rank: 75
1999 record: 3-8. ACC: 3-5/T5th

1999 Results

at East Carolina, L, 27-9
Northwestern, L, 15-12 OT
Vanderbilt, L, 31-14
Florida State, L, 51-23
at Virginia, W, 24-17
Georgia Tech, L, 38-31
NC State, L, 31-24
at Maryland, W, 25-22
at Clemson, L, 58-7
Wake Forest, W, 48-35
at North Carolina, L, 38-0

Schedule

S2—East Carolina
S9—at Northwestern
S16—Virginia
S23—at Vanderbilt
S30—Clemson
O14—at Florida State
O21—at Georgia Tech
O28—Maryland
N4—at Wake Forest
N11—at NC State
N18—North Carolina

Offensive philosophy: Second-year coach Carl Franks probably will follow the path of his mentor, Steve Spurrier, and create a more balanced offense as his talent improves. But for now, with talent that is not on par with the ACC's top teams, look for Franks to rely on the passing game he learned from one of the masters.

Offensive stars: Spencer Romine had the only 400-yard passing game in the ACC last year. He also nearly engineered an upset victory over Georgia Tech. But Romine has been plagued by injuries, making the backup quarterbacks more important than on many teams. Senior Bobby Campbell has started in parts of three seasons, and sophomore D Bryant led his team to victory in the Blue-White spring game. C Troy Andrew has started every game over the past two seasons and is a candidate for postseason honors.

Offensive concerns: A shoulder operation prevented Romine from participating in spring drills, and when he returns in the fall, it will be without leading receiver Scottie Montgomery, who completed his eligibility as the ACC's ninth all-time leading receiver. In addition, WR Richmond Flowers elected to spend his final season of eligibility at Division I-AA UT Chattanooga. No. 3 receiver Ben Erdeljac missed spring practice while recovering from knee surgery.

Defensive philosophy: Franks retained most of the staff of predecessor Fred Goldsmith, including coordinator and defensive backs coach Bob Trott. It was not a good season for a Blue Devils team that ranked last in the ACC in total defense and 103rd out of 114 teams in Division I-A in '99. Consistency was a problem; one week before holding Wake Forest to 70 yards on the ground, Duke gave up 239 rushing yards to Clemson.

Defensive stars: There aren't many. ILB Todd DeLamielleure, son of linebackers coach and former NFL offensive lineman Joe DeLamielleure, is the only returning player who ranked among Duke's top seven tacklers. In addition to DeLamielleure, who had 103 tackles, the Blue Devils are high on OLB Kendral Knight, who had eight tackles for loss.

Defensive concerns: The Blue Devils' pass defense was shredded by opponents during the season and by graduation afterward. A team that finished eighth in the ACC in sacks will have to replace two-time All-ACC DT Chris Combs, as well as three starters from a veteran secondary that played well on occasion.

Special teams: The departure of K Sims Lenhardt, who finished his career as Duke's all-time leading scorer, creates a huge void. Unproven Brent Garber is the best bet to replace Lenhardt in the absence of any new signees. The Blue Devils, however, do have a weapon in second-team All-ACC P Brian Morton, who averaged 42.8 yards last season. A replacement for Montgomery on the return teams must be found.

Head coach: Franks was no overnight sensation, losing his first four games and six of his first seven. He showed who was boss at midseason, when he benched Flowers because of the receiver's inattention to running the correct routes. The discipline was fine, but Franks would have liked a few more wins, too. Franks likes his staff, but mostly it comes down to recruiting and getting better players.

JEFFREY A. CAMARATI / DUKE UNIVERSITY

Heavy workload: *As one of just three returning starters on defense, DeLamielleure (left) may finish with a tackle total closer to 200 than 100.*

Schedule: The Blue Devils go on the road for two of their three non-league games, visiting Northwestern and Vanderbilt. In addition, they entertain East Carolina and a Virginia team they upset in Charlottesville last year. The potential for an 0-4 start is there, after which the schedule becomes more difficult. A 3-1 start would be a huge momentum boost.

Bottom line: Wake Forest's 7-5 season last year leaves Duke as the ACC program that has gone the longest without a winning season—four years. Look for that drought to continue. Duke won more league games last year than any of Goldsmith's last three seasons, but it is rebuilding in too many areas to be much of a factor in 2000.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Kyle Moore**	**5-11**	**185**	**Jr.**	D.R. Cash	6-1	185	Jr.
T	Mike Alberto	6-3	270	Sr.	*Drew Strojny	6-7	280	Fr.
G	Greg Dufala	6-3	275	So.	*Daryl Lewis	6-3	310	Fr.
C	**Troy Andrew**	**6-5**	**290**	**Sr.**	**Shawn Lynch**	**6-4**	**270**	**Jr.**
G	**John Miller**	**6-6**	**310**	**Jr.**	*Rusty Wilson	6-3	290	Fr.
T	**Wes White**	**6-7**	**280**	**Sr.**	*Luke Bayer	6-5	275	Fr.
TE	Benjamin Watson	6-3	250	So.	Mike Hart	6-6	240	Jr.
WR	Bryan Ament	6-5	215	Jr.	*Aaron Glaspie	6-4	205	Fr.
QB	Spencer Romine	6-3	205	Sr.	Bobby Campbell	6-5	215	Sr.
RB	Duane Epperson	5-9	190	Sr.	*Chris Douglas	5-10	170	Fr.
FB	Devin Pierce	5-10	225	Sr.	*Alexander Wade	6-0	235	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
T	Troy Austin	6-2	275	Sr.	Tyran Grissom	6-4	260	Jr.
NG	Nick Wilkerson	6-3	300	Jr.	*Russ Fenton	6-4	275	Fr.
T	Charles Porter	6-4	240	Jr.	*Thomas Larkin	6-3	204	Fr.
OLB	**Kendral Knight**	**6-4**	**230**	**Sr.**	*Matt Zielinski	6-2	235	Fr.
ILB	**Todd DeLamielleure**	**6-0**	**225**	**Jr.**	Randy Ament	6-1	225	Sr.
ILB	Levar Johnson	5-11	230	Jr.	Jason Davis	6-3	220	So.
OLB	Nate Krill	6-8	260	Sr.	Akil Ross	6-1	215	So.
CB	Quentin Holley	5-11	185	Jr.	Derrick Lee	5-11	190	So.
SS	Fred Harris	5-11	200	Jr.	Brad Santanna	6-2	220	Jr.
FS	Josh Kreider	6-1	200	So.	*Anthony Roberts	6-3	185	Fr.
CB	**Ronnie Hamilton**	**5-8**	**175**	Jr.	*Temo George	5-9	165	Fr.

Special Teams

K	*Brent Garber	6-1	180	Fr.	P	**Brian Morton**	**6-6**	**220**	**Sr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

SCOUTING THE MOUNTAIN WEST

In Year Two, expect lots of parity—but little strength

CONFERENCE RANK 7

By Mark Anderson

The Mountain West Conference entered its inaugural season last year boasting about its strength and the number of high-quality teams that had a chance to win the league. For the most part, that was correct. It was stronger than the old bloated Western Athletic Conference from which the eight schools had left, and there was a wide-open race. Three teams (Colorado State, Utah, BYU) tied for the championship, and all three played in bowls (only Utah won, and that was a one-point decision). Even though the parity seems to be back again this season, forget about the strength.

Entering this season, no Mountain West team should be considered for a Top 25 vote. At least one team needs to emerge, though, for the league to maintain credibility. Colorado State, with 19 starters back, is the best candidate. Utah should be solid and, of course, there's always BYU, the one conference school that boasts a national name.

If a dominant team or two doesn't break through, the second-year league will take a credibility hit, and the fight for respect could be long and difficult.

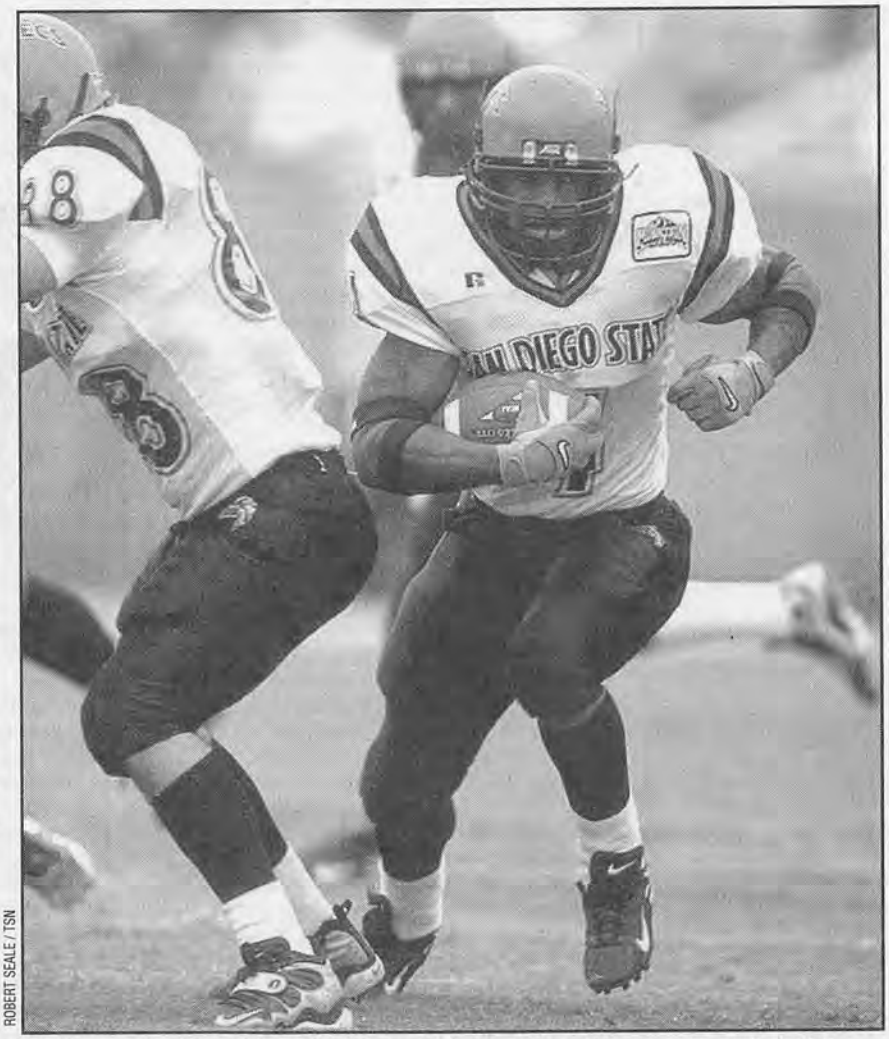
Ascending: Watch for UNLV to make its move in John Robinson's second season. The Rebels have put together two good recruiting classes and have attracted notable transfers like quarterback Jason Thomas from USC, tailback Kevin Brown from Washington State and tailback Raymont Skaggs from Florida State. If nothing else, the Rebels should be more interesting to watch because they are going to play a wide-open style.

Descending: Last season was San Diego State's best shot to win the conference but instead finished a disappointing 5-6. With 16 starters gone, the Aztecs are starting over. They have a terrific running back in Larry Ned and a quality defensive tackle in Jerome Haywood, but not a lot of other proven talent.

Dream schedule: Air Force is fortunate it gets to play Army and Navy, schools which fail to field strong teams regularly. Also on tap is a home game with Cal State-Northridge. Perhaps a trip to Notre Dame partially makes up for it.

Nightmare schedule: What's BYU thinking? The Cougars open by playing national champion Florida State in Jacksonville, Fla., in the Pigskin Classic. Then, the Cougars go to Virginia. After that, their non-conference games are at home against Mississippi State and at Syracuse. Sprinkled in there is a trip to Air Force. All of that before October 1. To top it off, the Falcons take league trips to Colorado State and Utah.

Best matchup: Or this could be the worst matchup, but certainly an intriguing game when Colorado State opens the season September 2 against Colorado at Denver's Mile High Stadium. The Rams routed Colorado, 41-14, last season. Then, police were accused of overreacting in trying to control the crowd after the game, when many fans were injured. The game doesn't need that kind of



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

He's the man: *San Diego State coach Ted Tollner thinks Larry Ned could be as good a running back as there is on the West Coast this season. After splitting time in '99, Ned will be the man for the Aztecs in 2000.*

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
Air Force	2	8	6	6	7	7	7	7	8	5
BYU	7	3	5	5	1	3	4	2	4	2
Colorado St.	4	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
New Mexico	8	7	7	8	4	6	6	8	7	6
San Diego St.	3	5	8	4	5	8	8	6	5	7
UNLV	1	4	3	3	8	5	2	5	6	4
Utah	6	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3
Wyoming	5	6	4	7	6	4	5	4	3	8

repeat, but memories from last season will create interest for this year.

Ugliest matchup: It's got to be BYU-Florida State. In most years, this game would be interesting, but the Cougars lost their best offensive player (quarterback Kevin Feterik) and best defensive player (middle linebacker Rob Morris). Florida State again will be loaded, and this game should be over by halftime.

Upset of the year: Yes, San Diego State is down, but don't be surprised if the Aztecs surprise Arizona State in the season opener August 31 at Qualcomm Stadium. Arizona State probably won't take the Aztecs seriously, and the Sun Devils can be counted on to be the fall guys for at least one upset every season. New Mexico State beat them.

Bowl bound: Colorado State and Utah should play in the postseason. Even though the Rams probably will win the conference, look for Utah to make the trip to the Liberty Bowl, where the Rams played last year. That would put Colorado State in the Las Vegas Bowl. BYU is a long shot.

Biggest shoes to fill: It doesn't get much bigger than replacing a prolific BYU passer. Feterik felt it following Steve Sarkisian. Bret Engemann, Charlie Peterson and Brandon Doman are competing to face the heavy burden this season.

Most overrated: Colorado State's Matt Newton is considered the league's top quarterback based on his progress at the end of last season and also because of the lack of viable candidates. Jay Stoner is proven at Wyoming, but he will be operating under a new system. Newton isn't bad, but he's not the league's best. Don't be surprised if four quarterbacks enjoy better seasons.

Most underrated: How the coaches left UNLV cornerback Kevin Thomas off the first-team all-conference squad last season is difficult to understand. They felt the need to reward seniors and not pick the team based on merit, which also cost Utah cornerback Andre Dyson a deserved spot. But Thomas had a better year than Dyson, and even though both should have been on the first team, Thomas deserved it more. Thomas is a junior, so he probably will be left off again—even if he intercepts 12 passes.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Next in line? *Doman was primarily a receiver last year, but he is one of three candidates to become BYU's next quarterback.*

Best coach: If you need a Mountain West coach to get the most from his talent, look no farther than Colorado State's Sonny Lubick. He guided the Rams though a competitive field to make the Liberty Bowl last season, and he had his team playing its best when the most was on the line. But that isn't unusual for Lubick. The Rams won just two titles in their previous 100 years before Lubick, who has won four in six seasons in Fort Collins.

Best staff: Lubick has surrounded himself with five Colorado State graduates, and it's obvious the coaches love their alma mater considering their loyalty the program. Other than defensive line coach Jesse Williams, a Sonoma State grad entering his second year on the staff, every assistant coach is in at least his fourth season in Fort Collins. Offensive coordinator Steve Fairchild and defensive coordinator Larry Kerr are each entering their eighth seasons on staff.

Coach on the hot seat: Probably none this season, but some seats are getting warmer. New Mexico's Rocky Long began winning supporters last season when the Lobos surprisingly won three conference games. San Diego State played nowhere near its capability, but Ted Tollner won't be under any real pressure until at least next season. Check back in a year.

Best bets: If BYU makes a bowl game, expect plenty of whining all the way to the site. Actually, expect whining no matter what happens. ... Jason Thomas will become UNLV's starting quarterback and the conference's most exciting—if not its best—player. ... Utah coach Ron McBride momentarily will stop breathing every time quarterback Darnell Arceneaux gets hit. The thought of another concussion is scary. ... Larry Ned will get double the number of carries at San Diego State, but not double the yards behind the Aztecs' inexperienced offensive line. ... The conference will get two or three teams into the Top 25 at some point during the season, but none at the end. ... There will be concern and hype heading into the Colorado State-Colorado game about possible problems between the crowd and police, but little will happen. ... BYU will be too worn down from the first half of its schedule to make a realistic run at the conference title. ... The league will make more of a return to its old Western Athletic

Mountain West **IN A NUTSHELL**

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Colorado State	Establishing ground game is a priority. Looking for help in the secondary and at end.	QB Matt Newton WR Dallas Davis	FS John Howell LB Rick Crowell	Sept. 2 vs. Colorado Oct. 21 at Utah
2. Utah	Look to replace RB Mike Anderson's production. Need to fortify end and corner spots.	WR Steve Smith G Sam White	LB Kautai Olevao CB Andre Dyson	Sept. 1 vs. Arizona Nov. 25 vs. BYU
3. BYU	Searching for quarterback and three line starters. Linebacking unit has to develop quickly.	WR Margin Hooks TE Tevita Ofahengaue	FS Jared Lee E Setema Gali	Sept. 2 at Virginia Nov. 2 at Colorado State
4. Wyoming	Receiving corps needs to develop. Secondary has to replace three starters.	QB Jay Stoner T Rob Kellerman	NG Jeff Boyle E Patrick Chukwurah	Aug. 31 at Auburn Nov. 16 at Colorado State
5. UNLV	Need Jeremi Rudolph to carry a big load. Must get tougher against the run.	RB Jeremi Rudolph WR Nate Turner	CB Kevin Thomas SS Randy Black	Oct. 7 vs. Nevada Nov. 25 at San Diego State
6. Air Force	Lack of line depth may hamper wishbone. Injuries could take toll on thin unit.	G David Hildebrand RB Scotty McKay	LB Matt Pommer LB C.J. Zanotti	Nov. 4 at Army Nov. 11 vs. Colorado State
7. San Diego State	Strong running game must carry a big load. Iffy secondary could be burned often.	RB Larry Ned TE Gray McNeill	T Jerome Haywood SS Will Demps	Sept. 23 at Oregon State Oct. 7 at Wyoming
8. New Mexico	Untested receivers have to deliver. Linebacking corps needs to develop a playmaker.	RB Holmon Wiggins T Jon Samuelson	NT Henry Stephens LB Mike Barnett	Sept. 9 vs. Oregon State Sept. 30 vs. Wyoming

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST

First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Margin Hooks, BYU	6-0	185	Sr.
WR	Steve Smith, Utah	5-10	177	Sr.
TE	Gray McNeill, San Diego State	6-2	250	Sr.
T	Doug Kaufusi, Utah	6-7	305	Jr.
T	Tim Stuber, Colorado State	6-5	310	Sr.
G	Sam White, Utah	6-3	280	Sr.
G	David Hildebrand, Air Force	6-3	290	Sr.
C	Justin Borvansky, Colorado State	6-1	290	Sr.
QB	Matt Newton, Colorado State	6-3	215	Sr.
RB	Larry Ned, San Diego State	5-11	210	Sr.
RB	Jeremi Rudolph, UNLV	5-9	175	Sr.

Defense

E	Setema Gali, BYU	6-4	250	Sr.
E	Andy Bowers, Utah	6-6	272	Sr.
T	Jeff Boyle, Wyoming	6-1	295	Sr.
T	Chris Hoke, BYU	6-3	285	Sr.
LB	Kautai Olevao, Utah	6-2	268	Sr.
LB	Justin Ena, BYU	6-4	260	So.
LB	Rick Crowell, Colorado State	6-3	245	Sr.
CB	Kevin Thomas, UNLV	5-11	180	Jr.
CB	Andre Dyson, Utah	5-11	174	Sr.
S	John Howell, Colorado State	6-0	195	Sr.
S	Jared Lee, BYU	6-0	200	Sr.

Specialists

K	Owen Pochman, BYU	6-0	180	Sr.
P	Ray Cheetany, UNLV	5-11	170	Sr.
KR	Steve Smith, Utah	5-10	177	Sr.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Dallas Davis, Colorado State	5-10	175	Sr.
WR	Nate Turner, UNLV	6-3	210	Sr.
TE	Tevita Ofahengaue, BYU	6-3	250	Sr.
T	Jon Samuelson, New Mexico	6-6	300	Sr.
T	Rob Kellerman, Wyoming	6-6	296	So.
G	Tony Terrell, UNLV	6-4	295	So.
G	Broderick Lancaster, Colorado State	6-4	315	Jr.
C	Matt Dayoc, Air Force	6-2	260	Sr.
QB	Jay Stoner, Wyoming	6-1	203	Sr.
RB	Scotty McKay, Air Force	5-8	175	Sr.
RB	Holmon Wiggins, New Mexico	6-0	201	Jr.

Defense

E	Patrick Chukwurah, Wyoming	6-2	230	Sr.
E	Scott Parkhurst, UNLV	6-3	245	Jr.
T	Jerome Haywood, San Diego State	5-9	280	Jr.
T	Ma'ake Kemoeatu, Utah	6-5	298	Sr.
LB	Mike Barnett, New Mexico	6-2	230	Sr.
LB	C.J. Zanotti, Air Force	6-1	230	Sr.
LB	Adam Wade, Colorado State	6-1	195	So.
CB	Ameer Lowe, Colorado State	6-1	180	Sr.
CB	Justin Gallimore, Colorado State	5-9	190	Jr.
S	Al Rich, Wyoming	5-11	200	Sr.
S	Randy Black, UNLV	6-0	210	Sr.

Specialists

K	Nate Tandberg, San Diego State	5-9	180	Sr.
P	Tom Waring, Wyoming	6-1	180	Sr.
KR	Dallas Davis, Colorado State	5-10	175	Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Offense: Jason Thomas, QB, UNLV

Defense: Russell Kay, LB, Colorado State

Conference roots when offenses were dominant and defenses non-existent, but the imbalance won't be extreme. ... Fans across the country still won't know the difference between the Mountain West and WAC.

Odds and ends: Because of a new NCAA rule, BYU's home uniforms no longer will include the huge white "bib" on the front of the jersey. There was a concern visiting teams were sometimes confused by the amount of white, which extended below the numbers on the jerseys. For all the heat the NCAA constantly receives, this rule is a humanitarian one because it spares fans from having to look at those awful uniforms. ... Air Force's offensive system wound up on the Internet. It was full of details, including diagrams and names of plays. ... Utah safety Brandon Dart was granted a seventh year of eligibility by the NCAA. Because of his history of injuries, Dart was going to decide over the summer whether to try to play another season. ... UNLV installed grass at Sam Boyd Stadium last season. Now, just a year later, officials are considering going back to artificial turf in 2001. It's a new type of synthetic turf that feels more like grass than AstroTurf. There were problems with the grass last season. Following a soccer tournament during the football season, the field was spotty, and tailback Jeremi Rudolph stepped in sand and suffered a groin injury. He was never the same the rest of the year, and the Rebels' season was affected greatly. ... BYU hasn't been shut out since September 1975 by Arizona State. The span of 312 games is an NCAA record. ... Break out the Geritol. Six of the conference's eight coaches are at least 60. Only New Mexico's Long, 50, and Wyoming's Vic Koenning, 40, are under 60. ... BYU will be the league's traveling men as the Cougars will span 10,874 miles this season.

Recruiting

RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Michael Marquardt	DL	6-4/260	San Marcos, Calif./Rancho Buena Vista	BYU
2. Junior Kato	OL	6-3/290	Daly City, Calif./Capuchino	BYU
3. Russell Kay	LB	6-2/240	Mesa, Ariz/Ricks (Idaho) CC	Colorado State
4. Scott Parkhurst	DE	6-3/245	Long Beach, Calif./Long Beach (Calif.) CC	UNLV
5. Lawrence Cowan	LB	6-3/220	Salt Lake City/Brighton	BYU
6. Eddie Keele	DL	6-6/270	Othello, Wash./Othello	BYU
7. Danny Armstrong	QB	6-1/190	La Quinta, Calif./La Quinta	San Diego State
8. Patrick Goodpaster	DL	6-3/260	Harbor City, Calif./Narbonne	Colorado State
9. Marcus Johnson	OL	6-3/290	Lakewood, Calif./Mayfair	UNLV
10. Paul Fisher	OL	6-8/290	St. George, Utah/Dixie (Utah) CC	Utah
11. Jon Stoner	QB	6-2/190	Glendale, Ariz./Cactus	San Diego State
12. Keith Lander	DB	6-2/180	Denver/Manual	Colorado State
13. K.C. Bills	LB	6-1/220	Littleton, Colo./Arapahoe	BYU
14. Erik Pears	OL	6-8/290	Denver/Kennedy	Colorado State
15. Lamar Owens	LB	6-3/220	Fresno, Calif./Fresno (Calif.) CC	UNLV
16. Craig Mitchell	WR	5-9/170	Los Angeles/West Los Angeles (Calif.) JC	San Diego State
17. Garret Pavelko	S	6-0/195	Del Mar, Calif./Palomar (Calif.) JC	San Diego State
18. Brett Elliott	QB	6-3/210	Lake Oswego, Ore./Lake Oswego	Utah
19. A.D. Winters	LB	5-11/245	La Puente, Calif./Bishop Amat	Utah
20. Charles James	WR	6-2/175	San Diego/San Diego Mesa College	UNLV
21. Brent Pollock	DL	6-2/280	Rolling Hills Estates, Calif./Peninsula	BYU
22. Judd Anderton	DL	6-6/270	Tacoma, Wash./Curtis	BYU
23. Vladimir Borombozin	K	5-10/164	West Hills, Calif./West Hills (Calif.) JC	New Mexico
24. Eric Butler	TE	6-6/235	Lexington, N.C./West Davidson	Air Force
25. Bo Nagahi	DB	5-9/175	Salt Lake City/Skyline	Utah
26. Charles Jones	DE	6-3/240	Long Beach, Calif./Poly	UNLV
27. Steve Nevarez	OL	6-4/280	San Fernando, Calif./San Fernando	San Diego State
28. Justin Green	RB/LB	6-1/220	San Diego/University of San Diego	San Diego State
29. Darren Flowers	CB	5-10/165	Moore, Okla./Moore	Air Force
30. Quinn Gooch	DB	6-0/185	Tucson, Ariz./Sabino	BYU
31. Cameron Casper	OL	6-5/285	San Diego/Mount Carmel	BYU
32. D.J. Busch	QB	6-4/190	Santee, Calif./Santana	Colorado State
33. DeShawn Abram	FS	6-4/200	Columbus, Ohio/Kemper (Mo.) Military	Wyoming
34. Ashley Subingsubing	LB	6-2/225	Los Angeles/Carson	UNLV
35. Shanga Wilson	LB	6-1/215	Corona, Calif./Chaffey (Calif.) JC	UNLV
36. Isiah Joiner	RB	6-0/180	Sealy, Texas/Sealy	BYU
37. Scott Fisher	OL	6-8/315	St. George, Utah/Dixie (Utah) CC	Utah
38. Phil Blackmon	OL	6-6/305	Santa Monica, Calif./Santa Monica (Calif) CC	Utah
39. Mike Lemon	RB	6-1/185	La Mirada, Calif./La Mirada	UNLV
40. Tyler Kruse	LB	6-1/220	Santa, Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	UNLV

RANKING the CLASSES

1. BYU
2. San Diego State
3. UNLV
4. Utah
5. Colorado State
6. Air Force
7. New Mexico
8. Wyoming

Players of the Year

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

DEFENSE

Steve Smith, WR, Utah

If you blink, you may miss the fast feats of Utah's Steve Smith, who has 4.35 speed.

How good was Smith after arriving from Santa Monica (Calif.) Junior College last season? He averaged 20 yards a reception, scoring eight times on 43 catches for 860 yards.

"I just wanted to get some playing time and get in the game," says Smith, a native of Los Angeles. "I didn't have a clue. I knew I had the potential, but doing it is a different thing."

Smith ran back a national-leading three punts for touchdowns, averaging 17.1 yards a return (29 for 495 yards) to rank first in the Mountain West and fifth in the nation. He wasn't supposed to return punts last season, but a knee injury to Courtney Richins, who ranked 13th in the nation with a 13.3-yard punt return average before he was injured in the third game of the season, forced Smith into that role. In 2000, the two will give the Utes one of the fiercest punt return duos in the land.

It was the chance to make big plays that drew Smith, a 5-10, 177-pound senior, to Utah, which he helped lead to a tie for the Mountain West championship. About the only disappointment Smith experienced last season was when he suffered a cracked vertebrae against Brigham Young in the final regular-season game. The injury kept him out of Utah's 17-16 victory over Fresno State in the Las Vegas Bowl. His head was immobilized for two months, but Smith again is healthy. He'll team with Cliff Russell in giving Utah a potent receiving tandem. The receivers will benefit from the experience of quarterbacks Darnell Arceneaux and T.D. Croshaw. —*Mark Anderson*

UNLV

DEFENSE

Kevin Thomas, CB, UNLV

Go ahead, ask Kevin Thomas about Iowa State, UNLV's season-opening foe. He has been watching film on the Cyclones since March and can't wait to start the season.

Coming off an outstanding sophomore year, Thomas saw that work ethic result in many big plays that included him setting a school-record with 24 pass break-ups to go with five interceptions. Other highlights included a 49-yard interception return for a touchdown to clinch a victory at North Texas, five pass break-ups and a twisting move for a spectacular interception against Brigham Young and a key interception in a victory at Wyoming. The *coup de grace* was a 100-yard fumble return for a touchdown with no time on the clock to beat Baylor.

"People I see at school bring up that play," Thomas says. "But it's over and done with. I'm looking forward to taking this team to a winning season."

Despite his feats, Thomas, 5-11, 180, was omitted from the Mountain West coaches all-conference first team.

"It's motivating," Thomas says. "Something (UNLV coach) John Robinson tells me is I have to make a name for myself first. If I make a name, everything will (fall into place). Maybe I'll get it next year."

So, Thomas works hard for this season. He doesn't want to leave any doubts in coaches' minds.

"One of the (UNLV) coaches told me the difference between all-conference and a regular player is one step," Thomas says. "I think there's one more step to All-American. That motivated me. I need to get two steps better." —*Mark Anderson*

Mountain West

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Kevin McDougal, Colorado State, Sr.	10	207	1,164	5.6	8	116.4
2. Mike Anderson, Utah, Sr.	10	195	977	5.0	10	97.7
3. Mike Thiessen, Air Force, Jr.	**9**	**160**	**827**	**5.2**	**8**	**91.9**
4. Larry Ned, San Diego State, Jr.	**11**	**162**	**894**	**5.5**	**11**	**81.3**
5. Jonas Lewis, San Diego State, Sr.	11	157	812	5.2	2	73.8
6. Jeremi Rudolph, UNLV, Jr.	**11**	**155**	**693**	**4.5**	**4**	**63.0**
7. Scotty McKay, Air Force, Jr.	**11**	**98**	**652**	**6.7**	**3**	**59.3**
8. Holmon Wiggins, New Mexico, So.	**11**	**138**	**601**	**4.4**	**5**	**54.6**
9. Lucas Staley, BYU, Fr.	**9**	**92**	**432**	**4.7**	**10**	**48.0**
10. Rahsaan Sanders, Colorado State, Fr.	**11**	**102**	**468**	**4.6**	**4**	**42.6**

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. T.D. Croshaw, Utah, Jr.	**10**	**146**	**83**	**.569**	**7**	**1,176**	**8.1**	**14**	**146.6**
2. Eric Jaworsky, New Mexico, Jr.	**11**	**68**	**44**	**.647**	**1**	**498**	**7.3**	**4**	**142.7**
3. Kevin Feterik, BYU, Sr.	11	452	277	.613	15	3,554	7.9	25	138.9
4. Jay Stoner, Wyoming, Jr.	**9**	**222**	**135**	**.608**	**7**	**1,859**	**8.4**	**8**	**136.7**
5. Matt Ray, UNLV, Fr.	**11**	**67**	**36**	**.537**	**0**	**541**	**8.1**	**3**	**136.3**
6. Matt Newton, Colorado St., Jr.	**11**	**324**	**193**	**.596**	**13**	**2,368**	**7.3**	**18**	**131.3**
7. Darnell Arceneaux, Utah, Jr.	**9**	**165**	**83**	**.503**	**7**	**1,342**	**8.1**	**10**	**130.1**
8. Jack Hawley, San Diego St., Jr.	**11**	**266**	**145**	**.545**	**10**	**1,942**	**7.3**	**15**	**126.9**
9. Mike Thiessen, Air Force, Jr.	**9**	**83**	**38**	**.458**	**3**	**599**	**7.2**	**3**	**111.1**
10. Sean Stein, New Mexico, Jr.	**11**	**272**	**141**	**.518**	**9**	**1,584**	**5.8**	**11**	**107.5**

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Margin Hooks, BYU, Jr.	**11**	**60**	**1,067**	**7**	**5.5**	**17.8**
1. Martinez Williams, New Mexico, Sr.	11	60	609	0	5.5	10.2
3. Dallas Davis, Colorado State, Jr.	**11**	**51**	**665**	**3**	**4.6**	**13.0**
4. Damon Gourdine, San Diego State, Sr.	9	38	439	4	4.2	11.6
5. Nate Turner, UNLV, Jr.	**11**	**45**	**627**	**6**	**4.1**	**13.9**
6. Steve Smith, Utah, Jr.	**11**	**43**	**860**	**8**	**3.9**	**20.0**
6. Ben Horton, BYU, Jr.	**11**	**43**	**472**	**2**	**3.9**	**10.9**
8. Germany Thompson, New Mexico, Sr.	10	39	552	3	3.9	14.2
9. Cliff Russell, Utah, So.	**9**	**34**	**601**	**3**	**3.8**	**17.7**
10. Wendell Montgomery, Wyoming, Sr.	11	41	733	5	3.7	17.9

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Air Force (2)	285.5
2. San Diego State (31)	176.0
3. Colorado State (49)	153.0
4. Wyoming (54)	148.1
5. Utah (56)	147.9
6. New Mexico (66)	143.0
7. UNLV (93)	111.5
8. BYU (100)	101.4

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. BYU (8)	324.3
2. Wyoming (29)	249.5
3. Utah (39)	231.3
4. Colorado State (53)	218.2
5. San Diego State (64)	206.4
6. New Mexico (68)	202.4
7. UNLV (97)	146.5
8. Air Force (109)	113.9

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. BYU (13)	425.6
2. Air Force (40)	399.4
3. Wyoming (41	397.6
4. San Diego State (49)	382.4
5. Utah (51)	379.2
6. Colorado State (60)	371.2
7. New Mexico (75)	345.4
8. UNLV (109)	258.0

Defense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. BYU (14)	102.9
2. San Diego State (19)	108.0
3. Air Force (42)	133.8
4. Utah (54)	144.3
5. Colorado State (60)	149.1
6. Wyoming (70	157.5
7. New Mexico (76)	165.4
8. UNLV (108)	234.1

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. Utah (6)	96.8
2. UNLV (23)	109.2
3. BYU (39)	113.6
4. Wyoming (60)	121.4
5. San Diego State (67)	123.6
6. Colorado State (71)	124.8
7. Air Force (93)	133.6
8. New Mexico (94)	133.8

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. San Diego State (18)	304.5
2. BYU (21)	308.3
3. Utah (33)	336.4
4. Air Force (34)	337.4
5. New Mexico (58)	371.4
6. Colorado State (66)	374.6
7. Wyoming (92)	398.9
8. UNLV (96)	404.8

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Colorado State

NATIONAL RANK 31

Coach: Sonny Lubick (57-27, 7 years; 78-46 overall, 11 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Fairchild (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: Larry Kerr (8th season)
Offensive scheme: One-back
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 11
Lettermen returning: 41
Site: Fort Collins, Colo.
Stadium: Hughes (grass, 30,000)
Last league title won: 1999 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 37
1999 record: 8-4 (lost to Southern Miss in Liberty Bowl). Mountain West: 5-2/T1st.

1999 Results

Colorado, W, 41-14
Nevada, W, 38-33
at BYU, L, 34-13
New Mexico State, W, 46-7
at Fresno State, L, 44-13
San Diego State, L, 17-10
at Wyoming, W, 24-13
Utah, W, 31-24
at New Mexico, W, 36-22
Air Force, W, 41-21
at UNLV, W, 35-17
Southern Miss, L, 23-17

Schedule

S2—Colorado*
S9—East Tennessee State
S16—at Arizona State
S30—at Nevada
O7—New Mexico
O14—UNLV
O21—at Utah
O28—at San Diego State
N2—BYU
N11—at Air Force
N16—Wyoming
*at Denver, Colo.

Offensive philosophy: With star RB Kevin McDougal having departed, the Rams will go with a committee approach at running back. Look for Rahsaan Sanders and Duan Ruff to get about 10 to 12 carries each a game, although Sanders could end up getting most of the work. With several capable tight ends back, expect the Rams to continue to use two-tight end formations and even three-tight end sets on occasion.

Offensive stars: Senior QB Matt Newton returns for his second season as starter. He will have plenty of targets, the best being Dallas Davis, who paced the team with 51 catches last year. Davis has good hands and can break the occasional big play. But all of the attention won't be on Davis. Pete Rebstock, Frank Rice and Joey Cuppari are capable of doing the job—each caught at least 20 passes last season. Rice's knack for catching touchdown passes is a bonus. That helps Newton, who won't dazzle anyone. He's good at spreading the ball around and taking advantage of what he has. And at this stage of his career, he won't lose a game for the Rams. Newton is helped by having four line starters back who allowed just 10 sacks in the regular season.

Offensive concerns: The loss of a workhorse such as McDougal, the Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year last season, is worrisome. In employing a committee system, the Rams hope to minimize his loss. They also lost all-conference T Blane Saipaia, a terrific athlete who allowed the Rams to do more pull blocking, thus creating more options.

Defensive philosophy: Colorado State goes with the traditional 4-3 set but doesn't take a lot of chances. The Rams prefer to let opponents make the mistakes, and they often give up a lot of yardage while waiting for the error to occur. Even though they gave up 374.6 yards a game last season, they yielded only 22.4 points per game.

Defensive stars: Getting LB Rick Crowell back is a huge boost. He was granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA after tearing his rotator cuff last season. Coach Sonny Lubick has called Crowell the best linebacker he has coached. LB Adam Wade, FS John Howell and CBs Ameer Lowe and Justin Gallimore are players the Rams can count on. Plus, expectations are high for junior college transfer Russell Kay to step in at middle linebacker.

Defensive concerns: Some key players are gone, including SS Erik Olsen, LB Ula Tuitele and Es Clark Haggans and Greg Pollard. Haggans was a particularly talented pass rusher, making eight sacks and 14 tackles for losses to lead the team in both categories last season. Es Chad McGuckin, Peter Hogan and Wallace Thomas are being counted on to step forward.

Special teams: Davis set a school record by averaging 16.9 yards per punt return in 1999. He brought back two punts for touchdowns in the same game last season. However, the Rams lost Deone Horinek, who averaged 42 yards a punt and placed 20 inside the 20-yard line. Walk-on Joey Huber will be asked to replace him. C.W. Hurst is an adequate kicker, converting 9-of-14 field-goal attempts last season.

COLORADO STATE

Dangerous: *Davis ranked sixth in the nation with a 16.9-yard punt-return average and led the Rams with 51 catches for 665 yards.*

Head coach: Lubick, the winningest coach in school history, gets his players to play hard, and they usually play to their potential. He put the Rams in the Liberty Bowl last year and should have them back in the postseason. That was nothing new for Lubick, who's renown for his defensive acumen.

Schedule: Colorado State has difficult games against Colorado in Denver and at Arizona State. However, the Rams should beat East Tennessee State at home and Nevada in Reno. The league schedule is built for success; a visit to Utah is the only daunting road trip.

Bottom line: Colorado State should win its fifth conference title in seven seasons, but it isn't a given. Helping the Rams' cause is the fact the Mountain West isn't as strong this season as it was last year.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Dallas Davis**	**5-10**	**175**	**Sr.**	Will Layne	6-0	175	Sr.
T	**David Shohet**	**6-6**	**315**	**So.**	*Aaron Green	6-4	270	Fr.
G	Broc Finlayson	6-5	305	So.	*Morgan Pears	6-8	319	Fr.
C	**Justin Borvansky**	**6-1**	**290**	**Jr.**	*Mark Dreyer	6-4	270	Fr.
G	**Broderick Lancaster**	**6-4**	**315**	**So.**	*Morgan Pears	6-8	319	Fr.
T	**Tim Stuber**	**6-5**	**310**	**Sr.**	*Aaron Brown	6-5	290	Fr.
TE	**Jose Ochoa**	**6-3**	**255**	**Jr.**	Nick Schaumburg	6-4	255	Sr.
WR	**Frank Rice**	**6-0**	**175**	**Sr.**	**Pete Rebstock**	**5-9**	**190**	**Jr.**
QB	**Matt Newton**	**6-3**	**215**	**Sr.**	Steve Cutlip	6-2	200	So.
RB	Rahsaan Sanders	6-0	210	So.	Duan Ruff	5-9	175	Jr.
HB	**Cory Woolstenhulme**	**6-3**	**225**	**Jr.**	Joey Cuppari	6-1	175	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Peter Hogan	6-3	240	So.	*Andre Sommersell	6-3	200	Fr.
T	**Mike Mackenzie**	**6-2**	**265**	**Sr.**	Casey Wolf	6-4	260	Sr.
T	**Jamie Bennett**	**6-2**	**275**	**Jr.**	Lucas Smith	6-4	275	Jr.
E	Chad McGuckin	6-4	241	Jr.	Wallace Thomas	6-3	220	So.
OLB	**Adam Wade**	**6-1**	**195**	**So.**	Rocky Martin	6-2	210	Jr.
MLB	**David Vickers**	**6-0**	**205**	**So.**	Russell Kay	6-1	225	Jr.
OLB	**Rick Crowell**	**6-3**	**245**	**Sr.**	Doug Heald	6-2	215	So.
CB	**Justin Gallimore**	**5-9**	**190**	**Jr.**	Rhett Nelson	6-0	190	So.
SS	Aaron Sprague	6-2	205	Jr.	*Lenzie Williams	6-1	195	Fr.
FS	**John Howell**	**6-0**	**195**	**Sr.**	Jason Gallimore	5-9	190	Jr.
CB	**Ameer Lowe**	**6-1**	**180**	**Sr.**	**Terrence Gibson**	**5-11**	**174**	**Sr.**

Special Teams

K	**C.W. Hurst**	**5-10**	**190**	**So.**	**P**	*Joey Huber	6-4	205	Fr.

2 Utah

NATIONAL RANK 35

Coach: Ron McBride (71-46, 10 years; 71-46 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Tommy Lee (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Kyle Whittingham (5th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 48
Site: Salt Lake City, Utah
Stadium: Rice-Eccles (turf, 45,634)
Last league title won: 1999 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 33
1999 record: 9-3 (beat Fresno State in Las Vegas Bowl). Mountain West: 5-2/T1st

1999 Results

at Washington St., W, 27-7
Utah State, W, 38-18
at UNLV, W, 52-14
at Boise State, L, 26-20
Louisiana-Monroe, W, 42-0
at Air Force, W, 21-15
San Diego State, W, 38-16
at Colorado State, L, 31-24
Wyoming, L, 43-29
New Mexico, W, 52-7
at BYU, W, 20-17
Fresno State, W, 17-16

Schedule

S1—Arizona
S9—at California
S16—Washington State
S23—Air Force
S30—at Utah State
O14—at San Diego State
O21—Colorado State
O28—at New Mexico
N4—UNLV
N11—at Wyoming
N25—BYU

Offensive philosophy: A big back is a Utah staple, but without an experienced one this season, expect a change in style. The Utes probably will take advantage of their talented quarterbacks and wide receivers by throwing more often. They want to use their speed at the skill positions to stretch the field. Utah also will stretch the field horizontally by trying to run more around the end.
Offensive stars: Led by big-play WR Steve Smith, who averaged 20 yards a catch and returned three punts for touchdowns in 1999, the Utes are rich at receiver. They also can go to game-breakers Courtney Richins and Cliff Russell as well as possession receiver Chris Christensen. Smith, Richins and Christensen return from injury, as do senior QBs Darnell Arceneaux and T.D. Croshaw. Croshaw was hurt in the Las Vegas Bowl win over Fresno State, but injury is a way of life for Arceneaux, who had been questionable to return after a major concussion that caused him to see spots in the Vegas Bowl. When healthy, both quarterbacks can do the job. This will be the fourth consecutive season the Utes will go with a two-quarterback system.
Offensive concerns: Arceneaux, who's more athletic than Croshaw, is an injury waiting to happen. Plus, Utah must find a way to assemble a quality running game after losing standout Mike Anderson and Omar Bacon. Diminutive D'Shaun Crockett will offer a different look from Anderson's bruising style, but whether he can produce the same results is another question. At least the backs will benefit from a strong line.
Defensive philosophy: Even though this team likes to pressure quarterbacks, it doesn't like to leave the cornerbacks out to dry. Instead, Utah prefers to establish a pass rush with the ends and blitz judiciously. It has been a successful formula, particularly with just departed E John Frank, who recorded 20 tackles for losses and 13 sacks last season.
Defensive stars: SS Jason Potter, who led the team with 74 tackles, is back. The Utes are happy with the potential they see in SS Arnold Parker, a redshirt freshman who is coming off a strong spring. Further bolstering the secondary is CB Andre Dyson, who's coming off a terrific season. Utah has talent in the front seven with LB Kautai Olevao and E Andy Bowers and Ts Ma'ake Kemoeatu and Garrett Smith.
Defensive concerns: Replacing Frank's big-play skills will be difficult. He not only disrupted offenses but allowed the Utes to maintain their philosophy of not playing too much one-on-one coverage. Marcus Jones probably will step into Frank's place. Jones will be helped by having Bowers playing opposite him.
Special teams: Golden Whetman, who kicked off and shared place kicking duties last season, will battle Ryan Kaneshiro for the placement job. Whetman, who has a strong leg, should step in at punter. Smith rates among the nation's best return men.
Head coach: Ron McBride did a nice job holding the team together last year when the season appeared to be slipping away after consecutive late-season losses to Colorado State and Wyoming. But the Utes rebounded to defeat New Mexico and BYU to tie for the conference championship. He is a crafty veteran who knows how to build a team and adjust to his personnel.

UTAH

Not bad: *Although Olevao and his mates allowed more than 30 points in two games, Utah's defense gave up fewer than 200 points all season.*

Schedule: If Utah can get through the early portion of its schedule that includes games with Pac-10 teams Arizona, California and Washington State, it could make a run at the league title. The Utes' toughest conference competition—Colorado State and BYU—comes to Salt Lake City.
Bottom line: The Utes must compensate for the losses of Anderson and Frank. If they do, they'll be difficult to beat because they boast a lot of talent. Don't be surprised if Utah posts a seventh consecutive winning season and advances to its sixth bowl under McBride's watch.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Steve Smith**	**5-10**	**177**	**Sr.**	Phillippe Wells	6-1	178	Sr.
T	**Doug Kaufusi**	**6-7**	**305**	**Jr.**	*Sean Souza	6-5	304	Fr.
G	Ed Ta'amu	6-3	310	Sr.	Talo Tavale	6-4	295	Jr.
C	**Steve McKane**	**6-1**	**257**	**Sr.**	*Dustin McQuivey	6-3	270	Fr.
G	**Sam White**	**6-3**	**280**	**Sr.**	Joe McCullum	6-6	315	Sr.
T	**Jordan Gross**	**6-5**	**302**	**So.**	Kevin Wilson	6-7	315	Sr.
TE	Michael Richardson	6-3	270	Jr.	**Matt Nickel**	**6-6**	**257**	**Sr.**
WR	**Cliff Russell**	**6-0**	**177**	**Jr.**	Johnny Lundy	6-1	184	Sr.
WR	Chris Christensen	5-11	176	Sr.	Courtney Richins	5-9	163	Jr.
QB	**T.D. Croshaw**	**6-2**	**182**	**Sr.**	**Darnell Arceneaux**	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**
RB	D'Shaun Crockett	5-8	187	So.	Thomas Fortune	6-4	229	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Marcus Jones	6-2	238	So.	Dylan Bird	6-4	232	So.
T	**Garrett Smith**	**6-3**	**280**	**So.**	Ed Johnson	6-5	293	Sr.
NT	**Ma'ake Kemoeatu**	**6-5**	**298**	**Sr.**	Lauvale Sape	6-2	267	Jr.
E	**Andy Bowers**	**6-6**	**272**	**Sr.**	*Josh Savage	6-4	262	Fr.
OLB	**Kautai Olevao**	**6-2**	**268**	**Sr.**	Matt Ward	6-4	226	Sr.
MLB	Sheldon Deckart	6-2	249	So.	C.R. Dwinell	6-0	226	Jr.
OLB	**Wes Tufaga**	**6-0**	**240**	**Sr.**	Jeremy Lyman	6-2	217	So.
CB	**Andre Dyson**	**5-11**	**174**	**Sr.**	Desmond Davis	5-8	174	So.
SS	**Jason Potter**	**5-11**	**204**	**Sr.**	*Arnold Parker	6-2	212	Fr.
FS	Patrick Dyson	6-0	195	Sr.	**Andre Dyson**	**5-11**	**174**	**Sr.**
CB	Jeff Ray	5-10	160	Sr.	Yohance Scott	6-0	185	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Golden Whetman**	**6-1**	**213**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Golden Whetman**	**6-1**	**213**	**Sr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

3 Brigham Young

NATIONAL RANK 47

Coach: LaVell Edwards (251-95-3 28 years; 251-95-3 overall, 28 years)
Offensive coordinator: Lance Reynolds (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Ken Schmidt (9th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 48
Site: Provo, Utah
Stadium: Cougar (grass, 65,000)
Last league title won: 1999 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 36
1999 record: 8-4 (lost to Marshall in Motor City Bowl). Mountain West: 5-2/T1st

1999 Results

Washington, W, 35-28
Colorado State, W, 34-13
Virginia, L, 45-40
at Utah State, W, 34-31
California, W, 38-28
at New Mexico, W, 31-7
at UNLV, W, 29-0
Air Force, W, 27-20
at San Diego St., W, 30-7
at Wyoming, L, 31-17
Utah, L, 20-17
Marshall, L, 12-3

Schedule

A26—Florida State*
S2—at Virginia
S9—at Air Force
S14—Mississippi State
S23—UNLV
S30—at Syracuse
O6—Utah State
O21—San Diego State
O26—Wyoming
N2—at Colorado State
N18—New Mexico
N25—at Utah
*at Jacksonville, Fla.

Offensive philosophy: Even with coordinator Norm Chow having left after 22 seasons to take the same position at North Carolina State, the Cougars insist they won't stray from their pass-first philosophy. New coordinator Lance Reynolds, previously the running backs coach who is entering his 18th season on the staff, says the changes will be so subtle, most fans won't notice. And given the inexperience at running back and the experience at wide receiver, keep looking for the more 300-yard passing games, even with the departure of all-conference QB Kevin Feterik.

Offensive stars: The receivers might be called upon to carry the offense, at least early. Brigham Young has a talented cache of pass catchers in Margin Hooks, Jonathan Pittman, Ben Horton and Soren Halladay and TE Tevita Ofahengaue. T Dustin Rykert and G Isaac Herring should be the leaders of a line that is retooling. As for quarterback and running back, there is inexperienced talent. QBs Bret Engemann, Charlie Peterson and Brandon Doman performed well in spring, even though no one won the job. Plus, the Cougars will have RBs Marcus Whalen and Isiah Joiner, who are true freshmen, and Brian MCdonald, a junior-college transfer, to go to.

Offensive concerns: Inexperience at key positions. Following a successful BYU quarterback is never easy, and whoever wins the job will have that pressure in addition to having to work through the inexperience. Also, the three new running backs are good, but how they perform at the Division I-A level remains to be seen. At least one of the backs will need to come through because of injuries to last season's standout freshman duo of Luke Staley and Fahu Tahi. Staley might miss the 2000 season, and even if Tahi is healthy, he likely will go on a two-year Mormon mission. Whomever runs the ball will benefit from the blocking of FB Kalani Sitake. The Cougars can't afford many injuries because of a lack of depth.

Defensive philosophy: This is a team that takes the old-fashioned approach of relying heavily on the middle linebacker to make plays. Following a terrific player such as Rob Morris will be difficult, but at least Jeff Holtry received experience doing that last season when Morris was injured. Holtry's success gives the Cougars hope as he moves into the position full time.

Defensive stars: In addition to Holtry, the Cougars will count on a strong line that will feature E Setema Gali, T Chris Hoke, E Ryan Denney and T Hans Olsen. FS Jared Lee and a big and athletic linebacking corps that features Justin Ena will make the Cougars' front seven tough.

Defensive concerns: Any time a team loses an imposing player such as Morris, adjusting isn't easy. Even though Holtry is good, he's no Morris. Also, there has to be concern in the secondary, where both of the starting cornerbacks from last season are gone. Don't be surprised if opponents try to pick on those corners, especially early. The Cougars will look to junior college transfer Danny Phillips for immediate help.

Special teams: Back for his fourth season is steady K Owen Pochman. Junior college transfer Aaron Edmonds probably will be the punter. Jaron Dabney is back to handle returns.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Did you know? *Holtry, Morris' heir apparent, played on Michigan's 1997 national championship team before transferring to BYU.*

Head coach: After 28 years at the helm, LaVell Edwards had to spend part of the offseason denying he was close to retiring. Instead, he insists he is as motivated as ever.

Schedule: This may be the most difficult schedule in school history. BYU opens vs. Florida State in Jacksonville, Fla. Games at Virginia and Air Force follow. There's a visit from Mississippi State followed later in September by a trip to Syracuse. To top it off, BYU travels to league toughies Colorado State and Utah.

Bottom line: If the Cougars don't get beaten up too badly during the first half of the season, they could make a run for the title in what is a weak league.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Margin Hooks**	**6-0**	**185**	**Sr.**	Mike Rigell	5-8	180	So.
T	**Ford Poston**	**6-6**	**285**	**Sr.**	Alex Jensen	6-5	285	So.
G	Kam Valgardson	6-4	280	Sr.	Isaac Herring	6-5	310	Sr.
C	Jason Scukanec	6-2	290	Jr.	*Scott Jackson	6-4	267	Fr.
G	Teag Whiting	6-5	288	Jr.	Brandon McFerren	6-5	305	So.
T	**Aaron McCubbins**	**6-4**	**285**	**Jr.**	Dustin Rykert	6-6	300	So.
TE	**Tevita Ofahengaue**	**6-3**	**250**	**Sr.**	Doug Jolley	6-5	240	Jr.
WR	**Ben Horton**	**5-11**	**190**	**Sr.**	Jonathan Pittman	6-0	180	Sr.
QB	*Bret Engemann	6-4	220	Fr.	Charlie Peterson	6-2	195	Jr.
RB	**Luke Staley**	**6-1**	**210**	**So.**	Brian MCdonald	6-0	200	Jr.
FB	Kalani Sitake	6-0	245	Sr.	Mike Nielson	6-2	240	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Ryan Denney	6-7	280	Jr.	Brett Keisel	6-4	250	Jr.
T	**Chris Hoke**	**6-3**	**285**	**Sr.**	Jimmy Betham	6-1	275	So.
T	**Hans Olsen**	**6-5**	**290**	**Sr.**	Chris Watkins	6-2	300	So.
E	**Setema Gali**	**6-4**	**250**	**Sr.**	Jeff Cowart	6-5	230	So.
OLB	**Justin Ena**	**6-4**	**260**	**So.**	*Kahau Enos	6-2	245	Fr.
MLB	Jeff Holtry	6-3	245	Sr.	Isaac Kelley	6-4	250	Jr.
OLB	**Josh Lowe**	**6-4**	**245**	**Sr.**	*Colby Bockwoldt	6-2	200	Fr.
CB	Jernaro Guilford	6-2	180	So.	Elton Tripp	5-10	160	Jr.
SS	Dustin Staley	5-11	190	So.	**Elan Edwards**	**6-1**	**195**	**Jr.**
FS	**Jared Lee**	**6-0**	**200**	**Sr.**	*Kurt Elliott	6-0	170	Fr.
CB	Danny Phillips	6-1	190	Jr.	Michael Lafitte	5-7	160	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Owen Pochman**	**6-0**	**180**	**Sr.**	**P**	Aaron Edmonds	5-11	185	Jr.

4 Wyoming

NATIONAL RANK 61

Coach: Vic Koenning (1st season)
Offensive coordinator: Rusty Burns (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Matt Wallerstedt (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: Eagle, multiple
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 24
Lettermen returning: 37
Site: Laramie, Wyo.
Stadium: War Memorial (grass, 33,500)
Last league title won: 1993 (tie, WAC)
Last bowl appearance: 1993
1999 TSN rank: 44
1999 record: 7-4. Mountain West: 4-3/4th

1999 Results

at Tennessee, L, 42-17
Weber State, W, 41-16
at Air Force, W, 10-7
Idaho, W, 28-13
UNLV, L, 35-32
at La.-Monroe, W, 38-20
Colorado State, L, 24-13
at Utah, W, 43-29
BYU, W, 31-17
New Mexico, W, 42-28
at San Diego St., L, 39-7

Schedule

A31—at Auburn
S9—at Texas A&M
S16—Central Michigan
S23—Nevada
S30—at New Mexico
O7—San Diego State
O14—Air Force
O21—at UNLV
O26—at BYU
N11—Utah
N16—at Colorado State

Offensive philosophy: The crazy triple-shoot offense is gone after one unsuccessful season. Instead, the Cowboys will resemble more closely the teams of the Joe Tiller days, when they ran multiple formations to confuse defenses. However, the main difference is this offense is expected to rely more on the run and throw the ball downfield with greater frequency.

Offensive stars: Three-year starter Jay Stoner is back at quarterback, which is a tremendous boost. He's one of the Mountain West's best. Stoner is helped by the return of three young but gifted linemen in Ts Adam Goldberg and Rob Kellerman and C Mike Irvin. All three started as freshmen last season, and although they endured growing pains, their promise was evident. Brock Ralph is back at receiver, but he could be overshadowed by redshirt freshmen Malcom Floyd and Ryan McGuffey for a unit that needs help.

Offensive concerns: A lot of young players will be asked to fill starting roles, and that could be difficult. Also, with Dana Dimel off to coach Houston, they will be operating in a new system which will require time for adjustment. The team is looking for a tight end, a position that wasn't part of last year's attack.

Defensive philosophy: Not much change here with new coach Vic Koenning now in charge. Expect to see the same pressure defense the Cowboys usually run, with the intent of putting quarterbacks under as much duress as possible. The Cowboys might have to make adjustments to the system with so many new players taking starting positions, but those changes could be subtle.

Defensive stars: Three key players return from injury. Getting NG Jeff Boyle, SS Al Rich and T Pat Hirsch should be a tremendous help considering how young the rest of the unit will be. Further bolstering Wyoming's cause is the return of E Patrick Chukwurah, an all-conference-caliber player. So even though the Cowboys won't be rich in experience, the players they get back are the ones they need most. And there's a good chance junior college newcomers such as CBs Eric Lee, Marcus Freeman and Gideon Smith, FS DeShawn Abram and DLs Daniel Gibson and Damon Roark will provide immediate help.

Defensive concerns: Koenning insists this will be a terrific defense, and he might be right. The ability appears to be there. But the number of new faces is troublesome. With inexperience particularly prevalent in the secondary, expect opponents to throw often, at least until they prove themselves.

Special teams: K Aaron Elling and P Tom Waring return. That's good, but Elling went into a slump midway through last season when he started hooking the ball and ended up hitting just 11-of-21 field-goal attempts. Whether he's out of the skid remains to be seen. Waring averaged 41.6 yards an attempt. Alex English, who showed breakaway ability last year by averaging 29.2 yards a kick return, is back. A newcomer figures to handle punt returns.

Head coach: Koenning, who is credited with restoring Wyoming's defensive tradition, assumes command after serving as defensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach the past three seasons in Laramie. Before that, he coached in various capacities for 10 years at Memphis. Koenning, 40, is praised for his work ethic and ability to motivate.

WYOMING

Every little bit helps: *A new coach's best friend is an experienced quarterback, and Koenning has that in Stoner, a three-year starter.*

Schedule: Koenning gets no breaks because Wyoming opens at Auburn and at Texas A&M. After that, the schedule eases a bit with home games against Central Michigan and Nevada before the conference season starts. Trips to BYU and Colorado State also loom.

Bottom line: Wyoming is a bit of a mystery. This is a talented team, but it's riddled with inexperience. The Cowboys benefit because the Mountain West is down this season, so they could make a run at finishing in the top half of the league. They may even make a run for the crown.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	*Malcom Floyd	6-6	200	Fr.	Dustin Ralph	5-10	183	So.
T	**Rob Kellerman**	**6-6**	**295**	**So.**	Bill Bullert	6-6	307	Jr.
G	Pat Hutchinson	6-5	298	Jr.	Jay Dirks	6-2	296	Jr.
C	**Mike Irvin**	**6-3**	**300**	**So.**	Ben Murphy	6-4	266	So.
G	Tam Pruitt	6-3	282	So.	*Casey Phillips	6-4	264	Fr.
T	**Adam Goldberg**	**6-7**	**315**	**So.**	Nate Reimers	6-6	325	So.
TE	Arlen Smith	6-0	237	Sr.	Antwan Floyd	6-2	219	Jr.
WR	Brock Ralph	6-3	185	So.	*Ryan McGuffey	6-1	197	Fr.
QB	**Jay Stoner**	**6-1**	**203**	**Sr.**	Matt Swanson	6-2	200	Jr.
RB	Nate Scott	6-1	185	Jr.	*Derek Armah	5-10	193	Fr.
FB	Darth Tesinsky	6-0	229	Jr.	Marcus Ford	6-1	223	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Kendrick Rawls	6-1	245	Sr.	Brandon Casavan	6-5	254	So.
T	**Pat Hirsch**	**6-3**	**268**	**Jr.**	Jon Aimone	6-4	230	So.
NG	**Jeff Boyle**	**6-1**	**295**	**Sr.**	Chad Beuhler	6-2	253	Jr.
E	**Patrick Chukwurah**	**6-2**	**230**	**Sr.**	*Joe Anderson	6-3	230	Fr.
OLB	Leo Caires	6-1	220	Sr.	Matt Klotz	6-1	215	Jr.
MLB	Kwabena Peprah	5-11	218	Sr.	Herman White	6-0	220	Jr.
OLB	**Adrian Hill**	**6-2**	**229**	**Sr.**	Tim Glynn	6-4	235	Jr.
CB	Lamar James	5-11	188	Jr.	Mark Sheller	5-9	183	Sr.
SS	**Al Rich**	**5-11**	**200**	**Sr.**	*Jacque Finn	6-3	175	Fr.
FS	Pete Merrill	6-1	190	Jr.	*John Levingston Jr.	6-2	197	Fr.
CB	Sidney Lewis	5-10	150	Jr.	Mark Sheller	5-9	183	Sr.

Special Teams

K	Aaron Elling	6-1	200	Sr.	P	Tom Waring	6-1	180	Sr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 UNLV

NATIONAL RANK 68

Coach: John Robinson (3-8, 1 year; 107-43-4 overall, 13 years)
Offensive coordinator: Gene Dahlquist and John Jackson (2nd seasons)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Bradeson (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 47
Site: Las Vegas
Stadium: Sam Boyd (grass, 36,800)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1999 TSN rank: 100.
1999 record: 3-8.
Mountain West: 1-6/8th

1999 Results

at North Texas, W, 26-3
at Baylor, W, 27-24
Iowa State, L, 24-0
Utah, L, 52-14
at Nevada, L, 26-12
at Wyoming, W, 35-32
BYU, L, 29-0
at New Mexico, L, 27-6
at Air Force, L, 35-16
San Diego State, L, 37-7
Colorado State, L, 35-17

Schedule

S9—at Iowa State
S16—North Texas
S23—at BYU
S30—Air Force
O7—Nevada
O14—at Colorado State
O21—Wyoming
O28—at Mississippi
N4—at Utah
N11—New Mexico
N25—at San Diego State
D2—at Hawaii

Offensive philosophy: This will be quite a change from last season, when the inexperienced and talent-poor Rebels featured a vanilla attack. With an influx of transfers and the maturity of core players, expect UNLV to feature a wide-open attack. Tailbacks will line up all over the field, giving opponents different looks and making them guess at what's coming next.

Offensive stars: Most eyes will be on QB Jason Thomas, whom UNLV fans have been buzzing about since he transferred from USC last year. Thomas is considered one of the top quarterbacks to come out of the Los Angeles area, and he often tore up UNLV's first-team defense in practices last season. He is fighting Matt Ray and Jason Vaughan for the starting job but is the favorite to win it. Look for tailback transfers Kevin Brown and Raymont Skaggs to make an impact. Brown was a 1,000-yard rusher at Washington State before running into trouble with the law. Skaggs was at Florida State but wasn't able to break into the lineup. Another tailback, Jeremi Rudolph, is back after being hampered with a groin injury last season. Nate Turner, one of the conference's best receivers, also returns for the Rebels.

Offensive concerns: Though the line has potential and is expected to be improve, it may be a liability. All of the talent in the backfield won't mean as much if opponents get penetration. Plus, Thomas hasn't played since his senior season in high school, having redshirted in 1998 at USC and sitting out last year because of the transfer rules.

Defensive philosophy: Like the offense, the defense figures to be more aggressive. With upgrades on the front seven, expect more blitzing, leaving the Rebels in man-to-man situations. Not that the secondary won't be looking to make plays. The safeties will be interchangeable and often will line up as if outside linebackers.

Defensive stars: CB Kevin Thomas returns after a sensational season in which he made big plays almost every game. Randy Black, terrific at outside linebacker and strong safety in '99, should be a full-time safety this season with the arrival of junior college transfer Lamar Owens at outside linebacker. The secondary will receive another boost with FS Sam Brandon back after missing last season for academic reasons. James Sunia is a run-clogger at middle linebacker, and the line should be better with the arrival of E Scott Parkhurst, who reneged on a commitment to UCLA.

Defensive concerns: A cornerback has to be found to play opposite Thomas; otherwise opponents will ignore Thomas and he won't be able to make the big plays he pulled off last season. The secondary could use help from a better pass rush. Though the line looks improved, it still must prove itself.

Special teams: Ray Cheetany, who averaged 45.4 yards per kick in '99, is the conference's best punter and will get a chance at kicking. His leg strength is undisputed, but he needs to prove he's accurate. Duane James handles both returns, and Troy Mason helps on kickoffs. Both are adequate.

Head coach: Last season was a honeymoon for John Robinson, who made his UNLV debut after a successful career at USC and with the Los Angeles Rams. He has enticed top talent to transfer. He has put enough pressure on himself by saying it's time to win.

Schedule: The first game is at Iowa State, a game UNLV doesn't have to win. But if the Rebels play well, they would benefit. With the toughest games coming on the road, the Rebels will have to take care of business at home, where they were winless last season.

Bottom line: UNLV will be much improved. If nothing else, this will be a fun team to watch with its liberal offensive attack. Though a conference title is out of the question, the Rebels could enter their season finale with a winning record on the line. UNLV hasn't finished over .500 since 1994.

UNLV

Maybe this year: *Rudolph was UNLV's top offensive threat in '99, but a groin injury kept him from challenging for a 1,000-yard season.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Nate Turner**	**6-3**	**210**	**Sr.**	Troy Mason	5-10	175	So.
T	**Brandon Bair**	**6-7**	**280**	**Jr.**	Marquez Ologbosele	6-7	300	So.
G	Shane Wagers	6-5	315	Jr.	Allen Williams	6-4	270	So.
C	**Peter Tramontanas**	**6-5**	**260**	**Jr.**	*Joel Menendez	6-3	275	Fr.
G	**Tony Terrell**	**6-4**	**295**	**So.**	Greg Hulett	6-3	285	Jr.
T	**John Greer**	**6-5**	**295**	**Sr.**	**Brian Hart**	**6-5**	**290**	**Sr.**
TE	DeJhown Mandley	6-4	245	So.	Brad Osterhout	6-4	260	So.
WR	Duane James	5-9	180	Jr.	Charles James	6-2	175	Jr.
QB	Jason Thomas	6-4	240	So.	Matt Ray	6-2	190	So.
RB	**Jeremi Rudolph**	**5-9**	**175**	**Sr.**	Kevin Brown	6-1	230	Sr.
FB	**James Wofford**	**6-0**	**200**	**Sr.**	Steven Costa	6-1	220	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Scott Parkhurst	6-3	245	Jr.	Steve Newton	6-3	225	Jr.
T	**Ahmad Miller**	**6-4**	**300**	**Jr.**	Saeed Abdul Malik	6-4	245	Sr.
NG	**Anthony Suggs**	**6-1**	**270**	**Sr.**	Phil Reed	6-3	265	So.
E	Anton Palepoi	6-5	275	Jr.	**Ahmad Briggs**	**6-3**	**230**	**So.**
OLB	**Tyler Brickell**	**6-4**	**230**	**Sr.**	Bill Cofer	5-11	220	So.
MLB	**James Sunia**	**5-10**	**240**	**So.**	Austin Allen	6-2	230	So.
OLB	Lamar Owens	6-3	220	Jr.	Tosh Burrus	6-0	185	So.
CB	Jamal Wynn	6-0	180	So.	Joe Haro	5-10	190	So.
SS	**Randy Black**	**6-0**	**210**	**Sr.**	Sharif Hamilton	6-0	200	Sr.
FS	Sam Brandon	6-3	220	Jr.	Ross Dalton	6-3	200	So.
CB	**Kevin Thomas**	**5-11**	**180**	**Jr.**	*Sean Mackey	6-1	185	Fr.

Special Teams

K	**Ray Cheetany**	**5-11**	**180**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Ray Cheetany**	**5-11**	**180**	**Sr.**

6 Air Force

NATIONAL RANK 78

Coach: Fisher DeBerry (126-69-1, 16 years)
Offensive coordinator: Chuck Petersen (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Richard Bell (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple option
Defensive scheme: 5-2
Starters lost: 17
Lettermen lost: 25
Lettermen returning: 29
Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Stadium: Falcon (grass, 52,480)
Last league title won: 1998 (WAC)
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 51
1999 record: 6-5. MWC: 2-5/7th

1999 Results

Villanova, W, 37-13
at Washington, W, 31-21
Wyoming, L, 10-7
at San Diego St., W, 23-22
at Navy, W, 19-14
Utah, L, 21-15
BYU, L, 27-20
Army, W, 28-0
UNLV, W, 35-16
at Colorado State, L, 41-21
at New Mexico, L, 33-28

Schedule

S2—Cal State-Northridge
S9—BYU
S23—at Utah
S30—at UNLV
O7—Navy
O14—at Wyoming
O21—New Mexico
O28—at Notre Dame
N4—at Army
N11—Colorado State
N18—San Diego State

Offensive philosophy: The Falcons have been successful in running opponents off the field with their difficult-to-defend option attack. The quarterback has been an especially effective weapon over the years as a ball-carrier. In fact, senior QB Mike Thiessen returns after rushing for a team-high 827 yards last season.

Offensive stars: Even though Thiessen is back, he isn't guaranteed to win the job. Junior Keith Boyea, who missed last season for disciplinary reasons, has the talent to take command. Because Thiessen also plays baseball, Boyea received extra snaps in spring practice. The Falcons also get a boost from the return of RBs Scotty McKay, Qualario Brown, Scott Becker and Leotis Palmer, meaning the option game should continue to run smoothly if help up front is found. In the event the Falcons decide to pass, Ryan Fleming has the ability to make plays.

Offensive concerns: Despite returning so much talent in the backfield, Air Force might not have the linemen to effectively execute the option. Four starters who played together the past two seasons are gone. Since lines typically are slow to develop, the Falcons could encounter problems, particularly early in the season. Also, losing WR Matt Farmer and his 34 catches is a blow. The Falcons don't appear to have another receiver in his class. McKay is the leading returning pass catcher with 15 receptions.

Defensive philosophy: Air Force runs a 5-2 that often looks like a 4-3. The outside linebackers spend much of the time imitating ends, leaving the inside linebackers in more traditional roles.

Defensive stars: LB C.J. Zanotti, a throwback who loves to brawl, was granted another season of eligibility—a rarity at the Academy—after missing last season with a broken wrist. Matt Pommer, who filled in for Zanotti, also returns, further bolstering the corps. Kyle Allen and Justin Pendry are promising tackles.

Defensive concerns: Inexperience should be a problem. Not that all the losses are bad, considering the secondary struggled last season. Still, trying to find so many new players to replace the likes of T Shawn Thomas, LB Craig Thorstenson, LB Travis Meidinger and SS Charlie Jackson will be difficult. If the offense struggles, that will put extra pressure on a defense that shouldn't be on the field for long stretches.

Special teams: K Jackson Whiting and P Scott Gribben are gone. Too bad for the Falcons. Whiting made all 12 field goals last season, and Gribben averaged 41.9 yards an attempt. However, K Dave Adams should step in with little problem, but P Dallas Thompson isn't as much of a certainty. McKay is back to handle return duties, but the return games lack pop.

Head coach: Fisher DeBerry, who has posted winning seasons in 14 of 16 years in Colorado Springs and produced 10 bowl teams, is one of the nation's best coaches. He consistently gets about as much out of his players as any coach. He will, however, be without Bob Noblitt, who retired after 16 seasons as the offensive coordinator and line coach.

Schedule: There is a chance for success. The lone daunting road games are at Utah and Notre Dame, a team DeBerry has beaten three times. Mountain West toughies BYU and Colorado State visit. And DeBerry has won the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy 10 times.

Bottom line: Air Force will have a difficult time making up for its losses on defense and the offensive line. Plus, without much of a threat in the passing game, opponents will stack the line in an effort to stuff the option attack, which was a problem last season. With a run-oriented attack, Air Force can't afford to play catch-up. But you never want to discount a DeBerry-coached team, which rarely beats itself. Discipline and smart play alone will get the Falcons a few victories and probably put them near the middle, if not higher, of the conference standings. But don't expect a winning record in league play.

LARRY HOLSCHER / AIR FORCE

Air Force grounded: *Thiessen ran for more yards last season (827) than he passed for (599), which is common for Falcons quarterbacks.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Ryan Fleming	6-5	220	Jr.	Dustin Ireland	6-0	200	Sr.
T	Ben Miller	6-3	265	Jr.	Joseph Pugh	6-3	250	Jr.
G	**David Hildebrand**	**6-3**	**290**	**Sr.**	Matt Joseph	6-5	280	Jr.
C	**Matt Dayoc**	**6-2**	**260**	**Sr.**	Paul Cancino	6-1	250	Jr.
G	Terrance Barreau	6-3	300	Jr.	Randall Gibbs	6-2	250	So.
T	Luke Porisch	6-4	275	Sr.	Brian Strock	6-3	265	Jr.
TE	Andy Malin	6-3	235	Sr.	Chris Jessop	6-5	250	Sr.
QB	**Mike Thiessen**	**6-0**	**195**	**Sr.**	Keith Boyea	5-10	195	Jr.
HB	Qualario Brown	5-10	180	Sr.	*Leotis Palmer	5-10	170	Fr.
HB	**Scotty McKay**	**5-8**	**175**	**Sr.**	Tom Heir	5-9	175	Jr.
FB	**Scott Becker**	**5-10**	**225**	**Sr.**	Nathan Beard	5-10	220	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
T	Kyle Allen	6-2	270	Sr.	Dan Probert	6-4	265	Jr.
NG	Zach Johnson	6-3	265	Jr.	Scott Hamilton	6-1	265	Sr.
T	Justin Pendry	6-5	280	Jr.	Kirby Ingram	6-3	235	So.
OLB	Michael Gallagher	6-1	220	Sr.	Kevin Runyon	6-4	230	Jr.
ILB	C.J. Zanotti	6-1	230	Sr.	Jamie Arthur	5-9	215	Jr.
ILB	**Matt Pommer**	**5-11**	**215**	**Sr.**	Andy Rule	6-2	230	Jr.
OLB	Corey Nelson	6-4	230	So.	Matt McCraney	6-2	220	Jr.
CB	Kurt Duffy	6-0	190	Sr.	Brandon Heaney	6-0	185	So.
SS	Sam Meinrod	6-1	200	Sr.	Adam Hanes	6-0	190	Jr.
FS	Wes Glisson	6-0	200	Sr.	Joel Buelow	6-1	195	So.
CB	Tony Metters	6-0	190	Sr.	Wes Crawley	5-10	190	So.

Special Teams

K	Dave Adams	5-11	185	Sr.
P	Dallas Thompson	6-0	205	Sr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

7 San Diego State

NATIONAL RANK 80

Coach: Ted Tollner (37-32, 6 years; 63-52-1 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Dave Lay (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Ken Delgado (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 26
Lettermen returning: 31
Site: San Diego
Stadium: Qualcomm (grass, 71,400)
Last league title won: 1986 (WAC)
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 78
1999 record: 5-6. Mountain West: 3-4/T5th

1999 Results

South Florida, W, 41-12
at Illinois, L, 38-10
at USC, L, 24-21
at Kansas, W, 41-13
Air Force, L, 23-22
New Mexico, L, 24-21
at Colorado St., W, 17-10
at Utah, L, 38-16
BYU, L, 30-7
at UNLV, W, 37-7
Wyoming, W, 39-7

Schedule

A31—Arizona State
S9—Illinois
S16—at Arizona
S23—at Oregon State
O7—at Wyoming
O14—Utah
O21—at BYU
O28—Colorado State
N4—at New Mexico
N18—at Air Force
N25—UNLV

Offensive philosophy: The one-back approach remains in place, but RB Larry Ned no longer has to share the workload with Jonas Lewis. With Lewis having departed, Ned's carries figure to double from the 15 he averaged last season. And because of the development of QB Jack Hawley, look for the Aztecs to stretch the field more often with a vertical passing game.

Offensive stars: Ned ran for a team-high 894 yards last season, but now that he's the featured back, expect him to produce unbelievable numbers. The question is whether Ned can take the extra work, but coaches aren't too concerned about his durability. The worry about Ned is his tendency to fumble. And there's concern about Hawley's penchant for turnovers in key moments. However, Hawley, a senior, gave the Aztecs hope by playing well at the end of last season and in the spring. Perhaps Hawley, a former junior college transfer, is beginning to fulfill his promise. There also is hope at wide receiver with speedy Derrick Lewis and former USC signee Craig Mitchell, who arrives from junior college. TE Gray McNeill is one to watch.

Offensive concerns: Only Ts Mike Houghton and Chris Williams are left from what was a quality line. If the Aztecs don't successfully rebuild the line that was led by C Mike Malano, Ned will be hard-pressed to find the running room he enjoyed last season. And Hawley's progress could be stilted.

Defensive philosophy: San Diego State runs a 4-3 zone blitz. It's not just an occasional zone blitz. It's the base package. The Aztecs run it 70 to 80 percent of the time, using it to disrupt opposing offenses.

Defensive stars: With the loss of nine starters, there aren't many to choose from. At least the Aztecs know they can count on squatty T Jerome Haywood and FS Brian Russell. Haywood made six tackles for losses last season, and Russell moved to the secondary from quarterback. The Aztecs signed T Marcus Levi, a true freshman coaches think they can contribute immediately.

Defensive concerns: Because of the losses, which include Es Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila and Scotty Nicholson, LBs Joey Mayo and Martin Chlumak and SS Rico Curtis, San Diego State might find itself having to outscore opponents to win. That would be a change from recent seasons, when the defense was the team's strength. It could be again, but expecting so many new players to develop quickly probably is unrealistic. Also, long-time coordinator Claude Gilbert retired after last season. Ken Delgado is his replacement. The good news is Delgado, San Diego State's defensive line coach the past six seasons, played for and coached under Gilbert, so don't expect many changes. His biggest concern is developing the secondary.

Special teams: Nate Tandberg was a Lou Groza Award finalist last season, so the Aztecs are set at kicker. The punting situation is more shaky. Justin Sisco is back following middling season in which he averaged 37.5 yards an attempt. James Truvillion will be the prime kick returner with Mitchell or Lewis possibly offering help. Sean Pierce is an adequate punt returner.

Head coach: Ted Tollner comes off a difficult season in which his talented team underachieved. But Tollner, 60, isn't under the gun. That's at least a year away. He's in the midst of a 10-year deal and just finished the first five years, which were guaranteed. The final five aren't, so the pressure will start to build if the Aztecs struggle.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Unequal trade: *Hawley's five 200-yard games were more than offset by his 16 turnovers, many of which came at critical moments.*

Schedule: It's tough, as usual. San Diego State plays host to Arizona State and Illinois and then travels to Arizona and Oregon State. The conference schedule, which features trips to Wyoming, BYU and Air Force, will seem like a breeze after that stretch.

Bottom line: The Aztecs probably won't compete for the title. Their best hope is to finish in the top half of the league, but with so many personnel losses, even that will be difficult.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Sean Pierce**	**5-9**	**175**	**Sr.**	Thomas Howard	6-2	205	Jr.
T	**Mike Houghton**	**6-4**	**305**	**Jr.**	Chester Pitts	6-4	290	Jr.
G	Jon Ingram	6-2	285	So.	David Moreno	6-3	285	Jr.
C	Zach LaMonda	6-1	290	Jr.	David Mayhew	6-2	280	Jr.
G	Raul Gomez	6-3	285	So.	David Moreno	6-3	285	Jr.
T	**Chris Williams**	**6-5**	**300**	**Sr.**	Chester Pitts	6-4	290	Jr.
TE	**Gray McNeill**	**6-2**	**250**	**Sr.**	*Raleigh Fletcher	6-4	250	Fr.
WR	Derrick Lewis	6-2	185	Jr.	Deric Martin	6-2	185	Jr.
QB	**Jack Hawley**	**6-2**	**215**	**Sr.**	Lon Sheriff	6-2	205	So.
RB	**Larry Ned**	**5-11**	**210**	**Sr.**	James Truvillion	5-10	195	Jr.
HB	J.R. Tolver	6-3	200	So.	Bill Hammett	6-3	200	Sr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Ryan Lata	6-4	250	So.	Andrew Brigham	6-4	250	Jr.
T	**Jerome Haywood**	**5-9**	**280**	**Jr.**	George Heather	6-5	290	Sr.
T	Akbar Gbaja-Biamila	6-5	260	Sr.	Jared Ritter	6-4	255	So.
E	Amon Arnold	6-4	235	So.	Josh Allen	6-4	260	So.
OLB	Rodney Allen	6-1	225	So.	Dylan Robles	6-2	215	Jr.
MLB	*Beau Trickey	6-1	235	Fr.	Mac Cleary	6-1	230	Sr.
OLB	Brian Berg	6-1	240	Sr.	Darrell Barclay	6-2	235	Jr.
CB	Bishop Miller	5-10	180	Sr.	*James Samuel	5-11	190	Fr.
SS	**Will Demps**	**5-11**	**200**	**Jr.**	Jay Kos	6-3	205	Jr.
FS	Brian Russell	6-2	205	Sr.	Garrett Pavelko	6-0	195	Jr.
CB	Ricky Sharpe	6-1	185	So.	Greg Taylor	5-9	165	Jr.

Special Teams

K	Nate Tandberg	5-9	180	Sr.	P	Justin Sisco	6-1	185	Sr.

More on San Diego State at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/sandiegostate/ AOL keyword: TSN

8 New Mexico

NATIONAL RANK 96

Coach: Rocky Long (7-16, 2 years)
Offensive coordinator: Dan Dodd (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Bronco Mendenhall (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-3-5
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 39
Site: Albuquerque, N.M.
Stadium: University (grass, 31,218)
Last league title won: 1964 (WAC)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 101
1999 record: 4-7.
Mountain West: 3-4/T5th

1999 Results

at UTEP, L, 13-10
New Mexico St., L, 35-28
Northern Arizona, W, 45-14
at Boise State, L, 20-9
at San Diego St., W, 24-21
BYU, L, 31-7
UNLV, W, 27-6
Colorado State, L, 36-22
at Utah, L, 52-7
at Wyoming, L, 42-28
Air Force, W, 33-28

Schedule

S2—Boise State
S9—Oregon State
S16—at New Mexico St.
S23—Northern Arizona
S30—Wyoming
O7—at Colorado State
O21—at Air Force
O28—Utah
N4—San Diego State
N11—at UNLV
N18—at BYU

Offensive philosophy: The Lobos try to confuse opponents by using multiple formations with an emphasis on the option. To make the attack work, they brought back Dan Dodd, who was at TCU, to be the coordinator. He was the passing game coordinator/quarterbacks coach in 1997, when New Mexico played in the WAC championship game.

Offensive stars: RB Holmon Wiggins and FB Jarrod Baxter are back after combining to rush for 1,035 yards and score nine touchdowns last season. The backfield should receive a boost from redshirt freshman Adrian Boyd, who could claim a starting job. And don't forget about bruising FB Ted Iacenda. The Lobos have to be pleased with the progress QB Sean Stein, who's long on moxie and short on athleticism, made the last half of 1999. Stein seldom is mentioned among the top passers in the conference, but he helped engineer victories over San Diego State, UNLV and Air Force. He could be pushed for the starting job by junior college transfers Jeremy Denson, the most athletic option, and Rudy Caamano, who began his career at Iowa State.

Offensive concerns: The Lobos relied heavily on wideouts Germany Thompson and Martinez Williams last season. The duo, which combined to make 99 catches for 1,161 yards, also was instrumental in Stein's progress. The team will look to Rob Caston and Illinois transfer Larry Davis to fill the void. New Mexico hopes an inexperienced line matures quickly. T Jon Samuelson and C Rashad McClure should help hasten the process.

Defensive philosophy: Since Rocky Long took over as coach two years ago, the Lobos have employed a gambling defense. Last season, the defense was centered around Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year Brian Urlacher. This season, the Lobos will go back to what the defense is designed to do: filter the play to the three safeties in the 3-3-5 scheme.

Defensive stars: Linebacker should be strong with Mike Barnett, who ranked second on the team last season with 112 tackles (10 for losses), operating in the middle. David Mauer played behind him but now moves to one of the outside spots. NT Henry Stephens has a chance to become an all-conference player, and E Brian Johnson also shows promise.

Defensive concerns: Urlacher's ability won't be replaced, so the Lobos must hope that altering the scheme compensates at least somewhat for his departure. Urlacher, a safety who often played like a linebacker, made 154 tackles last season. Though the linebacking corps should be fine, depth is a concern. And the line and secondary also are shaky. The team plans to use 10 or 11 players on the line. Rantie Harper is a good safety but he hasn't been durable. The Lobos need him, along with CB Walter Bernard, to help improve a porous pass defense.

Special teams: Vladimir Borombozin, a junior college transfer, is expected to become the kicker. The team hopes P Cort Moffitt performs better than he did as a true freshman, when he averaged 37 yards. Joe Manning, who's but not a big-play threat, should handle kickoff and punt returns.

NEW MEXICO

Right at home: *Samuelson excelled after being moved to right tackle last year, missing just 15 snaps and grading out perfectly in two games.*

Head coach: After taking heat for his 3-9 debut, Long's standing with fans didn't improve after a 1-3 start last year that included losses to UTEP, New Mexico State and Boise State. Somehow, though, the Lobos put together a 3-4 conference record, and the improvement helped Long's job status.

Schedule: The Lobos may struggle. There are home games against Boise State and Oregon State, schools that went to bowls last year. A trip to improving New Mexico State will be tough. League road games at Colorado State, Air Force and BYU are daunting.

Bottom line: Questions on defense and a lack of playmakers on offense mean New Mexico will finish in the cellar, but the Lobos shouldn't be taken for granted.

DEPTH CHART

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Larry Davis	5-10	190	Sr.	*Dwight Counter	6-2	175	Fr.
T	B.J. Long	6-5	285	Jr.	Eric May	6-6	335	So.
G	Jeremy Sorenson	6-3	290	Jr.	Brian Choi	6-5	315	So.
C	**Rashad McClure**	**6-3**	**285**	**So.**	James Copple	6-4	299	Jr.
G	Jon Oliver	6-6	275	Jr.	*Jason Lenzmeier	6-6	315	Fr.
T	**Jon Samuelson**	**6-6**	**300**	**Sr.**	*Luke Nogales	6-5	300	Fr.
TE	**Jonathan Burrough**	**6-4**	**256**	**Sr.**	Joseph Fiola	6-3	270	So.
WR	Rob Caston	5-11	185	Sr.	*Rashaun Sanders	6-2	201	Fr.
QB	**Sean Stein**	**6-2**	**230**	**Sr.**	Rudy Caamano	6-1	190	So.
RB	**Holmon Wiggins**	**6-0**	**201**	**Jr.**	Quincy Wright	5-10	183	So.
FB	Jarrod Baxter	6-1	236	Jr.	Ted Iacenda	6-0	230	Sr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Jeff Macrea	6-2	270	Sr.	Adrian Terry	6-0	240	So.
NT	**Henry Stephens**	**6-3**	**285**	**Sr.**	Danny Hernandez	6-2	275	Sr.
E	**Brian Johnson**	**6-3**	**265**	**Jr.**	*D.J. Renteria	6-2	265	Fr.
OLB	David Mauer	6-0	230	Sr.	Antonio Manning	6-2	245	Jr.
MLB	**Mike Barnett**	**6-2**	**230**	**Sr.**	Charles Moss	6-0	215	So.
OLB	Amos Wilson	6-1	235	Sr.	*Shannon Kincaid	6-1	225	Fr.
S	*Brandon Ratcliff	6-0	195	Fr.	*Dearlo Richardson	5-10	195	Fr.
CB	**Stephen Persley**	**5-10**	**175**	**Jr.**	Edwin Garrett	5-9	175	So.
S	**Rantie Harper**	**6-1**	**205**	**Sr.**	Justin Mobley	6-2	190	So.
S	**Desmar Black**	**5-9**	**180**	**So.**	Derrell Moten	6-0	195	So.
CB	**Walter Bernard**	**6-2**	**200**	**Sr.**	Dante Childress	5-10	184	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Cort Moffitt**	6-3	225	So.	P	**Cort Moffitt**	6-3	225	So.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

SCOUTING CONFERENCE USA

Maturation process continues for league that's still a toddler

CONFERENCE RANK 8

By Tim Doherty

As Conference USA enters its fifth season, the maturation process continues.

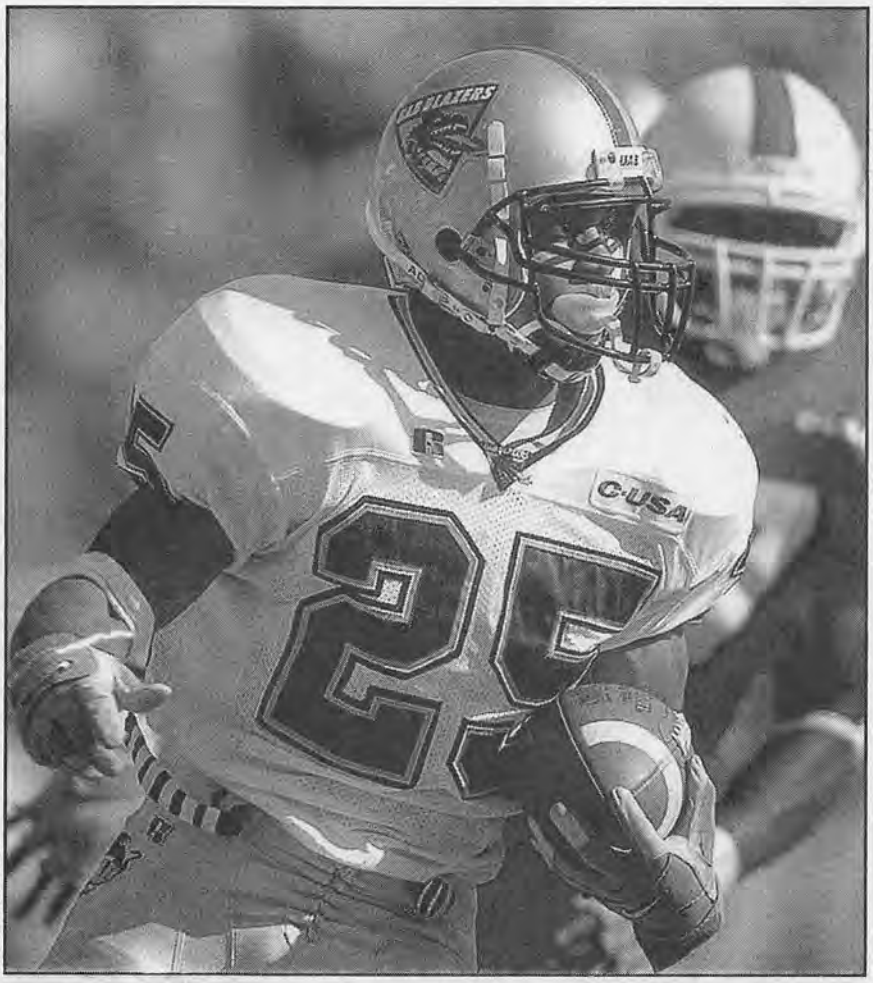
The league loves to consider itself among the elite of college football, occupying one of the eight seats in the NCAA's BCS hierarchy, but this still is a conglomerate that has yet to dent the national consciousness on a sustained basis.

Sure, East Carolina knocking off Miami (Fla.) and Cincinnati toppling Wisconsin registered on the Richter scale for a week or so, and programs like Southern Miss, Tulane and Louisville are beginning to make noise by earning slots in the national rankings or sporting players with big-time profiles like former Cardinals quarterback Chris Redman and Tulane quarterback Shaun King.

But upsets, victories in bowls that are considered only mid- to lower-tier games and the league's bottom-feeders–which annually feature some of the lower-rated teams in the country in terms of NCAA statistics and power ratings–tend to dilute C-USA's staying power. Also, strange twists, like UAB having to count its game at Kansas this year as a conference game because of scheduling glitches and the league's marquee program, Southern Miss, playing four road conference games in the lone season the league will have an unbalanced, seven-game schedule, are cause for head-scratching.

But perhaps we expect too much from a league that's in the toddler stage. C-USA's contract with Fox Sports is solid and provides weekly exposure. The league has three bowl-tie-ins (Liberty, Mobile Alabama and Galleryfurniture.com) and could sneak a fourth into the picture this season. And C-USA's upper-level teams are no pushovers for anybody in the country. Also, C-USA teams don't shy from playing the best, taking on the likes of Florida State, Alabama, Tennessee, Syracuse, Virginia Tech, Oklahoma State, Wisconsin, Indiana, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Air Force, Boston College, Kentucky, Texas and Louisiana State.

While its reputation may lag, C-USA is better than the WAC. And in a good year, its upper-level teams can push some of the teams from heavyweight conferences like the Big East, ACC and Pac-10. When all is considered, C-USA is off to a good start for a league that didn't exist in 1995.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Growing up: *Percy Coleman is proof of the depth of high school talent in Alabama. The Birmingham native has emerged as one of Conference USA's top running backs after walking on at UAB three years ago.*

Ascending: Cincinnati. After years of an error-prone, one-dimensional offense and a leaky defense, the Bearcats could field one of the league's more potent offenses. And the defense has rebuilt its depth to be, at least, more effective. Indeed, this could be the dark horse in the conference race. A nod here as well to UAB, which surprised most folks with its 4-2 C-USA mark last season. The Blazers are in fertile recruiting country, and the coaching staff is seasoned.

Descending: Tulane, which in 1998 went unbeaten, won a C-USA crown and finished seventh in the A.P. poll. In 1999, the Green Wave won just three games and lost five of six in the conference. The last two recruiting classes offer hope for the future, but look for another sea-

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE				DEFENSE					
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall	Special Teams	Coaching
Army	9	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8
Cincinnati	3	3	1	1	5	6	3	4	7	9
East Carolina	1	6	3	2	2	1	6	2	1	1
Houston	5	1	7	6	6	5	4	6	5	5
Louisville	6	4	6	4	4	4	5	5	6	3
Memphis	8	7	4	8	3	3	2	3	3	6
Southern Miss	2	5	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	2
Tulane	7	2	5	5	8	8	7	8	4	7
UAB	4	9	8	7	7	7	8	7	8	4

son of struggle from Tulane.

Dream schedule: Tulane has three non-conference road games, but games at SMU and Louisiana-Lafayette are winnable. Navy is at home. The Wave also gets four of its seven C-USA games at home, with Cincinnati, Southern Miss, Houston and Memphis coming to the Superdome. The C-USA road isn't a slam dunk, especially games at Louisville (look for a shootout) and Army. Louisville gets an honorable mention here. True, the Cardinals play at Florida State, but that's offset by games with Grambling and I-A newcomer UConn. Louisville also gets four C-USA home dates.

Nightmare schedule: Southern Miss has done it again, opening with road games at Tennessee, Alabama and Oklahoma State in the first four weeks of the season. The Golden Eagles also get no breaks in league play, having to hit the road for four games, including treacherous trips to Houston and Cincinnati. The home schedule is dangerous, as well, with Memphis, Louisville and East Carolina coming to Hattiesburg. Give East Carolina and Cincinnati honorable mention. The Pirates take on Duke, Virginia Tech, Syracuse and West Virginia. The Bearcats have Syracuse, Wisconsin and Indiana.

Best matchup: Either Southern Miss or East Carolina could be offering hymns of praise on Thanksgiving weekend, when the two clash in Hattiesburg. The game likely will decide the C-USA crown.

Ugliest matchup: After home games against Kentucky and Grambling, Louisville takes a week off before visiting Florida State September 23. If things start badly for the Cards, this game only will make it worse. If Louisville starts out with two wins, this will be its first loss—and it won't be close.

Upset of the year: Michael Vick and his Virginia Tech teammates will be ready to rock after reaching last year's national championship game. But their bubble could be popped September 7, when the Hokies visit East Carolina for a Thursday night game.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Defensive force: *Houston's Wayne Rogers had six games with double-digit tackles last season.*

The Pirates have a good quarterback in David Garrard, and defensive coordinator Tim Rose will cook up something to toss at Tech.

Bowl bound: Southern Miss and East Carolina are solid. Look for Louisville, Cincinnati and Houston to battle for a third spot in the new Galleryfurniture.com Bowl.

Biggest shoes to fill: All fifth-year senior Louisville quarterback Mike Watkins is being asked to do is step in for one of the most prolific passers in college history in Redman, who set NCAA career marks for completions and attempts and is one of just three quarterbacks in I-A to pass for more than 12,000 yards. If the Cardinals sputter, guess where the first finger will be pointed?

Most overrated player: Tulane running back Toney Converse. This was a recruiting coup for the Green Wave, keeping a local high school stud at home. But the oft-injured and diminutive Converse hasn't shown that he can carry the load over the course of the season. Worse, he's in the doghouse after getting suspended in the spring for violating team rules.

Best coach: Southern Miss' Jeff Bower. The guy has grown into the role over the past nine seasons and has become recognized in coaching circles as one of the top young minds in the nation. Fair but demanding, Bower insists his players handle their academic regimen and has high expectations for his players and his assistants. How many coaches would have fired four coaches from a staff that produced a 9-3 record, collected a Liberty Bowl win and finished No. 14 in the AP poll? A nod here also to ECU's Steve Logan, who is in near lock step with Bower for turning the Pirates into a consistently solid and usually dangerous program. He may have been at his best last year, when he maintained his team's focus while the campus was ravaged by flooding and guided the Pirates to the Mobile Alabama Bowl.

Best staff: USM is terrific, but newcomers Chris Klenakis (offensive coordinator from Nevada) and Paul Petrino (quarterbacks coach from Louisville) are young and unproven. Until they prove they're worthy, Logan's staff at East Carolina gets the edge. The Pirates' staff has been around the block a time or two while playing for higher stakes.

Coach on the hot seat: Cincinnati's Rick Minter. The Bearcats have won one conference game in the past two years and only five overall during that same span. Granted, Cincinnati isn't a football factory, but Minter has former Florida State athletic director Bob Goin looking over his shoulder. Minter, who has one bowl bid to his credit, has to win as he enters his seventh season.

Best bets: Tulane will post eye-popping numbers but still won't be able to stop anyone. ... Southern Miss will knock off either

Conference USA **IN A NUTSHELL**

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Southern Miss	Looking to replace two big-time receivers. Heart of linebacking corps has departed.	RB Derrick Nix QB Jeff Kelly	E Cedric Scott SS Leo Barnes	Sept. 16 at Alabama Nov. 25 vs. East Carolina
2. East Carolina	QB David Garrard must be leader of veteran unit. Two key corners and a stud linebacker are gone.	QB David Garrard C Sherwin Lacewell	LB Pernell Griffin SS Anthony Adams	Sept. 7 vs. Virginia Tech Nov. 25 at Southern Mississippi
3. Houston	New runner will work behind iffy line. In search of help at safety and on the line.	WR Orlando Iglesias G Josh Lovelady	LB Wayne Rogers CB Will Pettis	Sept. 30 vs. SMU Oct. 7 at Cincinnati
4. Louisville	Skill positions lack experience. Front seven has talent and depth.	WR Arnold Jackson G Joe O'Shaughnessy	T Donovan Arp E Michael Josiah	Sept. 2 vs.Kentucky Oct. 19 vs. East Carolina
5. Cincinnati	Searching for go-to back; kicking must improve. Line, linebacking units are deep and experienced.	C Doug Rosfeld QB Deontey Kenner	T Mario Monds CB Blue Adams	Sept. 23 at Indiana Oct. 14 at Louisville
6. Memphis	Depth is shaky at running back and receiver. Veteran unit must continue to play with passion.	K Ryan White TE Billy Kendall	LB Kamal Shakir NT Marcus Bell	Nov. 4 vs. Tennessee Sept. 30 at Southern Mississippi
7. Tulane	Ground game has to develop. Smallish line has to avoid getting trampled again.	T Corey Sewell WR Adrian Burnette	LB Jerry Phillips CB Tim Carter	Sept. 23 at SMU Nov. 18 vs. Memphis
8. UAB	Receivers will lack experience. Secondary and linebacking corps must jell.	RB Percy Coleman G Preston Fray	FS Adrian Singleton E Bryan Thomas	Sept. 16 at Kansas Nov. 11 vs. Southern Mississippi
9. Army	Switch from wishbone to one-back will take time. Must adapt to new 4-4 scheme.	G Dustin Plumadore RB Michael Wallace	LB Lyle Weaver E Zach Hurst	Dec. 2 vs. Navy Sept. 2 at Cincinnati

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-C-USA First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Arnold Jackson, Louisville	5-8	160	Sr.
WR	Orlando Iglesias, Houston	6-1	210	Sr.
TE	Billy Kendall, Memphis	6-5	235	Sr.
T	Corey Sewell, Tulane	6-2	260	Jr
T	Jeremy Bridges, Southern Miss	6-4	285	So.
G	Dustin Plumadore, Army	6-1	295	Jr.
G	Josh Lovelady, Houston	6-3	330	Sr.
C	Doug Rosfeld, Cincinnati	6-4	282	Sr.
QB	David Garrard, East Carolina	6-3	235	Jr.
RB	Derrick Nix, Southern Miss	6-1	223	Jr.
RB	Jamie Wilson, East Carolina	6-1	205	Sr.

Defense

E	Cedric Scott, Southern Miss	6-5	255	Sr.
E	Michael Josiah, Louisville	6-3	240	So.
T	Donovan Arp, Louisville	6-3	250	Sr.
T	Daleroy Stewart, Southern Miss	6-3	298	Sr.
LB	Pernell Griffin, East Carolina	6-3	240	Jr.
LB	Kamal Shakir, Memphis	6-1	238	Sr.
LB	Lyle Weaver, Army	5-11	230	Sr.
CB	Will Pettis, Houston	6-1	184	Sr.
CB	Blue Adams, Cincinnati	5-10	186	So.
S	Leo Barnes, Southern Miss	6-0	182	Sr.
S	Anthony Adams, East Carolina	5-11	180	So.

Specialists

K	Kevin Miller, East Carolina	6-1	200	So.
P	Casey Roussel, Tulane	6-0	223	Jr.
KR	Keith Stokes, East Carolina	5-8	180	Sr.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jerrian James, Houston	6-0	184	Sr.
WR	Adrian Burnette, Tulane	6-0	174	Sr.
TE	Rashon Burns, East Carolina	6-4	245	Sr.
T	Artis Hicks, Memphis	6-4	295	Jr.
T	Torrin Tucker, Southern Miss	6-6	310	So.
G	Billy Clay, Southern Miss	6-4	270	Sr.
G	Andy Weinheimer, Cincinnati	6-4	310	Jr.
C	Sherwin Lacewell, East Carolina	6-2	290	Sr.
QB	Deontey Kenner, Cincinnati	6-2	204	Sr.
RB	Mike Wallace, Army	5-11	232	Sr.
RB	Percy Coleman, UAB	5-10	185	Sr.

Defense

E	Bryan Thomas, UAB	6-4	220	Sr.
E	Zach Hurst, Army	6-3	246	Sr.
T	DeQuincy Scott, Southern Miss	6-2	270	Sr.
T	Mario Monds, Cincinnati	6-4	329	Sr.
LB	Eddie Johnson, Cincinnati	5-11	229	Sr.
LB	Jerry Phillips, Tulane	5-11	232	Sr.
LB	Wayne Rogers, Houston	6-1	236	Sr.
CB	Raymond Walls, Southern Miss	5-10	176	Sr.
CB	Tim Carter, Tulane	6-0	183	Sr.
S	DeJuan Gossett, Cincinnati	5-11	202	Sr.
S	Chad Williams, Southern Miss	5-11	191	So.

Specialists

K	Ryan White, Memphis	5-9	182	Jr.
P	Adam Wulfeck, Cincinnati	6-0	220	Jr.
KR	Zek Parker, Louisville	5-10	180	Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Offense: Ray Jackson, RB, Cincinnati
Defense: Rod Davis, LB, Southern Miss

Tennessee, Alabama or Oklahoma State on the road, avoiding an 0-3 start. ... East Carolina will go 3-1 in non-conference games but will slip up against somebody it shouldn't in league play. ... Army will have to sweat its way through a schedule in which it may not find a win. ... Southern Miss' toughest league game of the year won't be the season-ender with East Carolina but a November 18 trip to Cincinnati. The Golden Eagles don't play well at Nippert Stadium. ... Memphis will be good on defense and Ryan White will kick a bunch of field goals, but the Tigers will continue to have problems finding the end zone. ... Houston running back Joffrey Reynolds and Cincinnati running back Ray Jackson, a transfer from Michigan, are the most likely candidates to crack the 1,000-yard rushing barrier. ... Barring injury, Louisville wideout Arnold Jackson will break Jerry Rice's all-time receiving record of 301 catches. He needs 66 to get there and had 101 last year. ... UAB won't sneak up on anyone this season and thus will be pressed to win four C-USA games again.

Odds and ends: We're not quite sure what it says about the depth of defensive quality in the league, but C-USA was the lone I-A conference in the nation to have every team average at least 20 points. ... Starting as a six-team aggregation five years ago, the league will grow to 11 members in three years. Texas Christian, a member of the WAC, will join C-USA for all sports next season and South Florida, a founding member of the league in all sports but football, will become a player in that sport in 2003. East Carolina, which joined the league in 1997 as a football-only member, will begin play in all conference sports in the 2001-2002 season. ... At least five teams will use a one-back, three-receiver set this season: Southern Miss, Houston, Louisville, Army and Tulane. East Carolina accomplishes the same thing with H-backs.

Recruiting RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Ronald McClendon	RB	5-8/180	Ponchatula, La./Ponchatula	Tulane
2. Micky D'Angelo	QB	6-3/225	Gulfport, Miss./Long Beach	Southern Miss
3. Robert Drewery	WR	6-2/190	Los Angeles, Calif./El Camino (Calif.) CC	Cincinnati
4. Art Brown	RB	5-10/190	Lynchburg, Va./Fork Union Academy	East Carolina
5. Roydell Williams	WR	6-2/175	Reserve, La./St. John's	Tulane
6. Skylor Magee	LB	6-2/240	Poplarville, Miss./Poplarville	Southern Miss
7. Shawn Broadus	WR	6-0/170	Miami, Fla./Mesa (Ariz.) CC	Houston
8. Terrance Cooper	WR	6-1/192	Washington, N.C./Washington	East Carolina
9. Shaka Hill	FB/LB	6-3/250	Madison, Tenn./Goodpasture	Memphis
10. Cory Whisenant	RB	6-2/185	Springville, Ala./Springville	UAB
11 Timmy Blackwell	RB	5-10/185	Mt. Olive, Miss./Mize	Southern Miss
12. Ethan Ross	WR	5-10/165	Provo, Utah/Dixie (Utah) JC	Houston
13. Buster Ashley	OL/DL	6-4/280	Owensboro, Ky./Owensboro	Louisville
14. Lynaris Elpheage	WR	5-9/168	New Orleans, La./Carver	Tulane
15. Charlie Dempsey	OL	6-4/275	Jacksonville, Fla./Southwest Onslow	East Carolina
16. Vonta Leach	LB	6-2/225	Rowland, N.C./South Robeson	East Carolina
17. Rod Taylor	LB	6-2/245	Montgomery, Ala./East Mississippi CC	UAB
18. Joseph Scott	LB	6-3/235	Hattiesburg, Miss./Hattiesburg	Southern Miss
19. Hanik Milligan	OLB	6-3/195	North Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Iowa Central CC	Houston
20. Zach Norton	DB	5-11/170	Tallahassee, Fla./Jefferson County	Cincinnati
21. Reginald Perkins	WR	5-9/165	Vicksburg, Miss./Hinds (Miss.) CC	Memphis
22. Adam Hoover	QB	6-1/192	Corona, Calif./Saddleback (Calif.) CC	Cincinnati
23. Derrick Ball	LB	6-2/200	Madison, Ga./Morgan County	Memphis
24. Greg LeFever	LB	6-1/245	Ocean City, N.J./Garden City (Kan.) CC	East Carolina
25. Eddie Robinson	TE	6-3/235	Venice, Calif./Venice	Tulane
26. Jermain Woodard	RB	6-0/190	Houston, Texas/Dobie	Houston
27. John Humphries	LB	6-2/247	Montgomery, Ala./East Mississippi CC	UAB
28. Addaryl Edwards	OL	6-3/290	Amite, La./Amite	Southern Miss
29. Marcus Jones	DE	6-2/215	Alachua, Fla./Santa Fe	Louisville
30. Kerry Rhodes	QB	6-4/180	Bessemer, Ala./Lanier	Louisville
31. Torrey Hale	CB	5-9/180	Etowah, Ala./East Mississippi CC	UAB
32. Anthony Teal	OLB	6-2/215	Riveria Beach, Fla./Garden City (Kan.) CC	Houston
33. Patrick Burchfield	CB	5-11/175	Maben, Miss./East Mississippi CC	UAB
34. Kyle Takavitz	OL	6-4/270	Columbus, Ohio/Olentangy	Cincinnati
35. Danny Wimprine	QB	6-1/205	New Orleans, La./Curtis	Memphis
36. Antoine Harris	WR	5-10/165	Columbus, Ohio/Bishop Ready	Louisville
37. Steve Eastlake	OL	6-4/275	Columbus, Ohio/Bishop Watterson	Cincinnati
38. Bobby Tillman	RB	5-10/183	Houston, Texas/Memorial	Houston
39. Antoine Cash	DB	6-1/190	Anguilla, Miss./South Delta	Southern Miss
40. Victor DiMaurio	K	5-11/200	Clovis, Calif./Fresno (Calif.) City College	Cincinnati

RANKING the CLASSES

1. Tulane
2. Southern Miss
3. East Carolina
4. UAB
5. Memphis
6. Houston
7. Louisville
8. Cincinnati

Army doesn't release names

Players of the Year

EAST CAROLINA

DEFENSE

David Garrard, QB, East Carolina

For the past two seasons, David Garrard used his tremendous physical assets to rewrite the East Carolina record book and lead the Pirates to 11 wins in 16 career starts. Garrard is poised to become more dangerous this season as he polishes his grasp of reading defenses and smooths out the inconsistencies that plague young passers.

"I have to learn off my mistakes and take what the defense is giving me," says Garrard, a 6-3, 235-pound junior from Durham, N.C. "I want to have everything down pat, mentally, and understand what the defense is trying to do."

Garrard will be a huge piece of the puzzle for ECU, which returns nine starters from an offense that averaged 406.3 yards last season. The Pirates, who finished 9-3, were one of the feel-good stories of 1999. ECU survived the ravages of a hurricane and flood to post emotional wins over Miami (Fla.) and NC State en route to cracking the Top 25 and playing in a bowl for the first time since 1995. But a loss to Southern Miss, an upset by Alabama-Birmingham and a 28-14 loss to Texas Christian in the Mobile Alabama Bowl left a bitter taste.

Garrard is back to make amends. Last year, he finished with his second 2,000-yard passing season (2,359 yards) and threw 14 touchdown passes. He added a team-high eight rushing touchdowns and 493 yards rushing, the most by an East Carolina quarterback since 1969. He ranked 21st nationally in total yards per game (259.3). Garrard is hard to tackle because of his strength and shiftiness, and he possesses arguably the strongest arm in Conference USA. *—Tim Doherty*

SOUTHERN MISS

DEFENSE

Cedric Scott, E, Southern Miss

Cedric Scott would prefer to work in anonymity. Trouble is, at 6-5, 255 pounds, he's hard to ignore.

He is difficult to handle because of his strength and speed. After two years of playing in the shadow of former defensive end Adalius Thomas, Scott is ready to shine.

"I just take action and hope people follow my lead and follow my actions," Scott says. "I'm not the type of person that wants all the publicity. If I do my part, it's going to help the team do well, and if the team does well, I guess the awards will come."

Last season, Scott made 52 tackles, including 12 for loss with four sacks, and earned first-team All-Conference USA honors. He is tied for sixth among school leaders with 14 career sacks and needs six to move into second place behind Thomas' 34½.

Though Thomas often came up with big plays, Scott plays the run coming to his side better than Thomas did and can collapse a pocket on his way to the quarterback. Not bad for a guy who arrived in Hattiesburg from Gulfport, Miss., as 6-2, 220-pound defensive tackle and switched to end as a freshman.

Some argue that Thomas' presence freed up Scott the past two seasons. But Scott, a senior, played against his share of double-teams and should see more. He's part of a front that features stellar tackles DeQuincy Scott, Daleroy Stewart and John Nix. Thomas' spot will be filled by junior college redshirt Marchene Hatchett.

"We're not going to be satisfied with what we've done the past three years," says Scott of Southern Miss' three consecutive bowl trips. *—Tim Doherty*

Conference USA

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Frank Moreau, Louisville, Sr.	10	233	1,289	5.5	17	128.9
2. Robert Cooper, Cincinnati, Sr.	10	248	1,245	5.0	7	124.5
3. Ketric Sanford, Houston, Sr.	11	224	1,199	5.4	12	109.0
4. Derrick Nix, Southern Miss, So.	**11**	**255**	**1,054**	**4.1**	**8**	**95.8**
5. Mike Green, Houston, Sr.	10	142	838	5.9	8	83.8
6. Michael Wallace, Army, Jr.	**11**	**163**	**894**	**5.5**	**10**	**81.3**
7. Jamie Wilson, East Carolina, Jr.	**11**	**156**	**865**	**5.5**	**7**	**78.6**
8. Gerard Arnold, Memphis, Sr.	10	146	706	4.8	7	70.6
9. Percy Coleman, UAB, Jr.	**11**	**122**	**689**	**5.6**	**3**	**62.6**
10. Joe Gerena, Army, Jr.	**9**	**149**	**427**	**2.9**	**7**	**47.4**

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Jeff Kelly, Southern Miss, So.	**11**	**260**	**153**	**.589**	**11**	**2,062**	**7.9**	**21**	**143.7**
2. Chris Redman, Louisville, Sr.	11	489	317	.648	13	3,647	7.5	29	141.7
3. David Garrard, E. Carolina, So.	**11**	**312**	**181**	**.580**	**12**	**2,359**	**7.6**	**14**	**128.6**
4. Patrick Ramsey, Tulane, So.	**11**	**513**	**310**	**.604**	**24**	**3,410**	**6.7**	**25**	**123.0**
5. Deontey Kenner, Cincinnati, Jr.	**10**	**379**	**208**	**.549**	**15**	**2,430**	**6.4**	**14**	**113.0**
6. Jason McKinley, Houston, Jr.	**11**	**257**	**148**	**.576**	**10**	**1,651**	**6.4**	**5**	**110.2**
7. Travis Anglin, Memphis, Fr.	**10**	**125**	**68**	**.544**	**10**	**856**	**6.9**	**5**	**109.1**
8. Daniel Dixon, UAB, Jr.	**10**	**245**	**127**	**.518**	**10**	**1,347**	**5.5**	**7**	**99.3**
9. Joe Gerena, Army, Jr.	**9**	**105**	**42**	**.400**	**4**	**661**	**6.3**	**3**	**94.7**
10. Neil Suber, Memphis, So.	**10**	**163**	**78**	**.479**	**5**	**852**	**5.2**	**4**	**93.7**

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. JaJuan Dawson, Tulane, Sr.	10	96	1,051	8	9.6	10.9
2. Arnold Jackson, Louisville, Sr.	11	101	1,209	9	9.2	11.9
3. Adrian Burnette, Tulane, Jr.	**11**	**79**	**1,095**	**7**	**7.2**	**13.9**
4. Lavell Boyd, Louisville, Sr.	11	60	836	9	5.5	13.9
4. Ibn Green, Louisville, Sr.	11	60	680	8	5.5	11.3
6. Orlando Iglesias, Houston, Jr.	**11**	**59**	**750**	**2**	**5.4**	**12.7**
7. Sherrod Gideon, Southern Miss, Sr.	9	40	520	7	4.4	13.0
8. Todd Pinkston, Southern Miss, Sr.	11	48	977	11	4.4	20.4
9. Jason Collins-Baker, Cincinnati, Jr.	**10**	**43**	**431**	**1**	**4.3**	**10.0**
10. Terrell Harris, Tulane, So.	**11**	**47**	**386**	**3**	**4.3**	**8.2**

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Army (5)	265.0
2. Houston (16)	209.6
3. Cincinnati (35)	172.2
4. East Carolina (37)	170.4
5. UAB (69)	140.5
6. Memphis (75)	134.4
7. Louisville (76)	131.7
8. Southern Miss (84)	122.3
9. Tulane (104)	93.3

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Louisville (2)	335.2
2. Tulane (5)	327.3
3. Cincinnati (28)	252.2
4. East Carolina (35)	235.9
5. Southern Miss (60)	210.8
6. Houston (92)	159.8
7. Memphis (94)	158.5
8. UAB (104)	138.5
9. Army (113)	73.3

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Louisville (6)	466.9
2. Cincinnati (16)	424.4
3. Tulane (18)	420.6
4. East Carolina (32)	406.3
5. Houston (62)	369.5
6. Army (78)	338.3
7. Southern Miss (82)	333.1
8. Memphis (101)	292.8
9. UAB (105)	278.9

Defense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Southern Miss (8)	91.5
2. Houston (20)	109.3
3. East Carolina (41)	130.5
4. UAB (49)	141.7
5. Memphis (53)	143.5
6. Louisville (79)	166.5
7. Army (85)	172.8
8. Cincinnati (86)	178.4
9. Tulane (113)	244.0

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. East Carolina (10)	100.9
2. Southern Miss (16)	105.3
3. Memphis (30)	111.9
4. UAB (40)	113.6
5. Houston (43)	114.1
6. Cincinnati (61)	122.2
7. Louisville (63)	122.4
8. Army (90)	132.4
9. Tulane (98)	135.8

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Southern Miss (8)	294.1
2. Memphis (23)	313.5
3. Houston (25)	319.3
4. East Carolina (38)	340.1
5. UAB (57)	367.8
6. Army (70)	377.9
7. Cincinnati (77)	385.4
8. Louisville (88)	392.1
9. Tulane (109)	450.1

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Southern Miss

NATIONAL RANK 25

Coach: Jeff Bower (59-43-1, 9 years)
Offensive coordinator: Chris Klenakis (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Dave Wommack (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple, one-back
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 50
Site: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Stadium: Roberts (grass, 33,000)
Last league title won: 1999
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 15
1999 record: 9-3 (beat Colorado State in Liberty Bowl). C-USA: 6-0/1st

1999 Results

Tulane, W, 48-14
Northwestern St., W, 40-6
at Nebraska, L, 20-13
at Texas A&M, L, 23-6
at East Carolina, W, 39-22
Army, W, 24-0
Cincinnati, W, 28-20
at Alabama, L, 35-14
at Memphis, W, 20-5
La.-Lafayette, W, 48-0
at Louisville, W, 30-27
Colorado State, W, 23-17

Schedule

S2—at Tennessee
S16—at Alabama*
S23—at Oklahoma State
S30—Memphis
O7—South Florida
O14—at Tulane
O21—at Houston
N4—Louisville
N11—at UAB
N18—at Cincinnati
N25—East Carolina
*at Birmingham, Ala.

Offensive philosophy: The Golden Eagles have a new coordinator in former Nevada playcaller Chris Klenakis. USM will remain in a one-back, three-wide base set, but look for QB Jeff Kelly to deliver the ball quicker with more three- and five-step drops. That means the running backs and tight ends will figure more prominently in the passing game.

Offensive stars: Just the third quarterback in school history to pass for 2,000 yards in a season, Kelly is a decent scrambler, and the new offense has more rollouts and naked bootlegs. RB Derrick Nix, who posted consecutive 1,000-yard seasons his first two years, could set the school rushing record as a junior, but look for speedy Dawayne Woods to be more of factor. Youngsters Leroy Handy and Corey Hosey will help cushion the loss of record-setting WRs Sherrod Gideon and Todd Pinkston. Four starters return up front, including standout Ts Jeremy Bridges and Torrin Tucker.

Offensive concerns: Kelly is more of a technician than a big-armed playmaker. Plus, he'll be throwing to a receiving corps that lacks stars. A coaching shake-up that included three offensive assistants receiving pink slips, means there are new coaches for the line, running backs, quarterbacks and tight ends. Line play was a big concern in the spring, with Gs Billy Clay and Jim Hicks out with injury. The new system relies on accuracy and execution, but against better defenses, it's tough to nickel and dime your way downfield.

Defensive philosophy: The mutated 4-3 relies on linejammers up front, speed off the edge and man coverage on the corners. Though the Golden Eagles suffered key losses at end, linebacker and corner, USM may be quicker, and the secondary has the talent to play the press coverage needed for this scheme.

Defensive stars: E Cedric Scott is arguably USM's most complete edge player in decades. The interior line is talented and deep with standouts Daleroy Stewart, John Nix and DeQuincy Scott. LB Roy Magee will emerge from the shadows as a top-notch playmaker, and FS Chad Williams and SS Leo Barnes give USM the best tandem in the conference. CB Raymond Walls could be the Golden Eagles' best cover guy since Patrick Surtain.

Defensive concerns: Gone are studs E Adalius Thomas, the league's two-time defensive player of the year, LBs T.J. Slaughter and Ty Trahan and CB Terrance Parrish. Can the young pups adjust to their responsibilities soon enough to continue USM's standard of excellence on defense?

Special teams: K Brant Hanna was shaky at times. P Mark Haulman has the leg to replace steady Jamie Purser, but he hasn't done it under pressure. Last season, the return and coverage teams were below par for a program that prides itself on special teams play. Shawn Mills was inconsistent on kickoff returns but can pop the big return. Under new special teams coordinator Chad O'Shea, USM will have its first full-time coach since Joe Robinson left in 1998. Look for improvement.

Head coach: Jeff Bower has quietly become one of the better coaches that most of the nation hasn't heard of. Three straight bowl trips didn't satisfy Bower, who reshaped his staff to push for bigger and better things. Bower has built USM into a program that will contend for the conference title and push its way into the top 25 on an annual basis.

SOUTHERN MISS

Workhorse: *Southern Miss plans to spread the field more this season, which could open wide running lanes for Nix to exploit.*

Schedule: Brutal, as usual. An 0-3 start is not inconceivable. Also, the defending league champs play only three C-USA home games. If USM survives its opening stretch, the championship could come down to a Thanksgiving weekend showdown with East Carolina.

Bottom line: The Golden Eagles lost several key players, but the youngsters waiting in the wings are good enough that USM will be banging on the door for another Liberty Bowl trip.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold * *Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Leroy Handy	6-2	182	So.	John Floyd	6-4	193	So.
T	**Torrin Tucker**	**6-6**	**310**	**So.**	Jason Jimenez	6-7	250	So.
G	**Billy Clay**	**6-4**	**270**	**Sr.**	Paul Ulrich	6-3	250	Jr.
C	**Zeb Landers**	**6-3**	**265**	**So.**	Dennis Evans	6-3	275	Sr.
G	Dennis Evans	6-3	275	Sr.	Dan Reber	6-5	254	So.
T	**Jeremy Bridges**	**6-4**	**285**	**So.**	Jason Jimenez	6-7	250	So.
TE	**Buck Miciotto**	**6-4**	**250**	**So.**	Orlando Dantzler	6-4	255	Jr.
WR	Shawn Mills	5-11	175	Sr.	Corey Hosey	6-2	180	So.
QB	**Jeff Kelly**	**6-2**	**204**	**Jr.**	Bobby Garner	6-3	200	So.
RB	**Derrick Nix**	**6-1**	**223**	**Jr.**	Dawayne Woods	5-9	191	Jr.
WR	**Dannye Fowler**	**5-11**	**175**	**Jr.**	Antonio Gray	5-11	185	Jr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Cedric Scott**	**6-5**	**255**	**Sr.**	Marchene Hatchett	6-3	270	Jr.
NT	**DeQuincy Scott**	**6-2**	**270**	**Sr.**	Gerald Mumford	6-3	255	Sr.
T	**Daleroy Stewart**	**6-3**	**298**	**Sr.**	Travis Dorsey	6-4	250	So.
E	Deric Scott	6-3	258	Sr.	*Terrell Paul	6-2	205	Fr
OLB	Chris Langston	6-2	199	So.	Zaid Houston	6-2	219	Sr.
MLB	*Rod Davis	6-2	205	Fr.	*Darris McKenzie	6-3	235	Fr.
OLB	**Roy Magee**	**6-2**	**212**	**Jr.**	Anthony Chapman	5-11	209	Sr.
CB	Keon Moore	5-11	183	Jr.	Daryon Brutley	5-11	183	Jr.
SS	**Leo Barnes**	**6-0**	**182**	**Sr.**	Byron Gill	5-10	177	Sr.
FS	**Chad Williams**	**5-11**	**191**	**So.**	Joey Pinkston	6-0	177	Jr.
CB	**Raymond Walls**	**5-10**	**176**	**Sr.**	Corey Yates	5-10	172	So.

Special Teams

K	Brant Hanna	6-2	202	Jr.	Mark Haulman	6-0	175	So.	**P**	Mark Haulman	6-0	175	So.

2 East Carolina

NATIONAL RANK 36

Coach: Steve Logan (51-40, 8 years)
Offensive coordinator: Doug Martin (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Tim Rose (2nd season).
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 50
Site: Greenville, N.C.
Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen (grass, 43,000)
Last league title won: none
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 27
1999 record: 9-3 (lost to TCU in Mobile Alabama Bowl). C-USA: 4-2/T2nd

1999 Results

West Virginia, W, 30-23
Duke, W, 27-9
at South Carolina, W, 21-3
Miami (Fla.), W, 27-23
at Army, W, 33-14
Southern Miss, L, 39-22
Tulane, W, 52-7
at Houston, W, 19-3
at UAB, L, 36-17
Cincinnati, W, 48-34
NC State, W, 23-6
TCU, L, 28-14

Schedule

S2—at Duke
S7—Virginia Tech
S16—Tulane
S23—Syracuse
O7—at Memphis
O14—Army
O19—at Louisville
O28—UAB
N11—Houston
N18—at West Virginia
N25—at Southern Miss

Offensive philosophy: Under coach Steve Logan, East Carolina has been the most adaptable, malleable offense in the conference—pro-set, option, one-back, two-tight end, empty backfield, rolling pocket, quarterback draws. The wide-open approach puts a premium on having a versatile quarterback. And ECU has such a threat in junior David Garrard.

Offensive stars: Garrard has been impressive since he got the starting nod during the latter part of his freshman season. The backfield has other weapons, notably FBs Jamie Wilson and Leonard Henry and RBs Keith Stokes and Marcellus Harris. Wilson is a playmaker rushing or catching the ball, and Stokes and Harris are dangerous in space. Brawny TE Rashon Burns could be in for big season with his soft hands. Anchored by C Sherwin Lacewell, four starters return to a line that is capable and strong on technique, whether blocking option or zone or pass protecting.

Offensive concerns: Like most young quarterbacks, Garrard has endured a learning curve, one intensified by the demands of ECU's playbook. His touchdown-to-interception ratio (14-12) has to improve. East Carolina was the conference's second-highest scoring unit but lost 15 fumbles. Proven, consistent go-to receivers must emerge. Arnie Powell has big-play ability, and youngsters Torey Morris and Delayo Dodd offer promise.

Defensive philosophy: Under coordinator Tim Rose, the Pirates are an aggressive and swarming unit that comes from all angles. Based out of a 3-4, ECU ranked 14th in the nation in points and 10th against the pass, which helped the program score wins over Miami (Fla.), NC State and West Virginia in 1999.

Defensive stars: LB Pernell Griffin is a tackling machine. With heart-and-soul LB Jeff Kerr departed, Griffin will assume even more responsibility. The middle, which is the hub of the Pirates' run-stuffing efforts, returns standout Ts Devone Claybrooks and Mbayo Ahmadu. Injuries last season may prove to be a blessing, with up-and-coming youngsters such as OLBs John Williamson and Antwane Yelverton, FS Antwan Adams and SS Anthony Adams getting playing time.

Defensive concerns: The pass defense was anchored by CBs Forrest Foster and Kevin Monroe, who combined for 30 pass breakups in '99. Both are gone, leaving Jerome Steward and Kelly Hardy in the bull's-eye. If that weren't enough, starting SS Charles Satterfield chose to pass on his senior season to wrap up his degree. Can Reggie Hamphill or Eric Reyes step into the kamikaze role that Kerr filled?

Special teams: K Kevin Miller can hit 'em long and hit 'em often, stroking 11-of-15 attempts before missing the final four regular-season games with a pulled quad muscle. He also is expected to be the heir apparent to P Andrew Bayes. Stokes is among the best return men in the nation.

Head coach: Logan is one of the more unheralded coaches in country, an unconventional tactician who isn't afraid to roll the dice on offense. After following a good season with a bad one, East Carolina has reached a level of consistency surpassed only by Southern Miss in the league and has built a program that rivals interstate big brothers North Carolina and NC State. If Logan can keep Rose for a few more years, ECU should be a regular in the polls.

EAST CAROLINA

The main man: *Griffin did just about everything for the Pirates defense last season—and may have to do even more in 2000.*

Schedule: Tough, as usual, with home games against Virginia Tech and Syracuse highlighting the non-conference schedule. The road will tell the tale in conference play, with the Pirates going to Memphis, Louisville and Southern Miss, the season finale which could be for the C-USA crown.

Bottom line: East Carolina has the offensive firepower to win the conference title, but holes in the secondary are reason to give major pause. Still, expect the Pirates to play in their fourth bowl—and second in a row—under Logan.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Marcellus Harris**	**5-10**	**180**	**Sr.**	Arnie Powell	6-4	215	Jr.
T	Shaun Rose	6-6	305	Jr.	*Brandon Pope	6-4	245	Fr.
G	**Aaron Walker**	**6-3**	**285**	**Jr.**	Phoenix Evans	6-5	295	So.
C	**Sherwin Lacewell**	**6-2**	**290**	**Sr.**	James Bell	6-5	310	Sr.
G	**Chris Nelson**	**6-4**	**295**	**Jr.**	Senter Currin	6-4	285	So.
T	**Samien Jones**	**6-3**	**290**	**Sr.**	*Brian Rimpf	6-3	275	Fr.
TE	**Rashon Burns**	**6-4**	**245**	**Sr.**	Corey Floyd	6-2	245	Jr.
WR	Torey Morris	6-1	180	So.	Delayo Dodd	6-2	225	Jr.
QB	**David Garrard**	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**	Richard Alston	6-2	215	So.
HB	Keith Stokes	5-8	180	Sr.	Marcellus Harris	5-10	180	Sr.
FB	**Jamie Wilson**	**6-1**	**205**	**Sr.**	Leonard Henry	6-1	200	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**John Williamson**	**6-3**	**220**	**So.**	*Kent Nealy	5-11	210	Fr.
T	**Devone Claybrooks**	**6-3**	**280**	**Sr.**	Marc Yellock	6-4	240	Sr.
NG	**Mbayo Ahmadu**	**6-1**	**275**	**Sr.**	Chris Howell	6-3	280	Sr.
T	Ty Hunt	6-4	270	Sr.	**Bernard Williams**	**6-4**	**240**	**Jr.**
E	Antwane Yelverton	6-0	210	So.	Kevin Ward	6-2	225	Jr.
LB	Reggie Hamphill	6-2	220	So.	Eric Reyes	6-2	235	Sr.
LB	**Pernell Griffin**	**6-3**	**240**	**Jr.**	Carlos Ochoa	6-0	215	Sr.
CB	Kelly Hardy	5-11	185	So.	Dale Simmons	6-0	195	So.
SS	**Anthony Adams**	**5-11**	**180**	**So.**	*Eddie Ravenell	6-0	185	Fr.
FS	Antwan Adams	5-11	180	So.	Travis Mazyck	6-2	185	Jr.
CB	Jerome Steward	5-10	170	So.	Charlie Robinson	6-0	180	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Kevin Miller**	**6-1**	**200**	**So.**	**P**	**Kevin Miller**	**6-1**	**200**	**So.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

3 Houston

NATIONAL RANK 54

Coach: Dana Dimel (1st season; 23-13 overall, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Phil Davis (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Dick Bumpas (2nd season) and Mark Stoops (1st)
Offensive scheme: One back
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 51
Site: Houston
Stadium: Robertson (grass, 32,000)
Last league title won: 1996 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 56
1999 record: 7-4. C-USA: 3-3/6th

1999 Results

Rice, W, 28-3
at Alabama, L, 37-10
La.-Lafayette, W, 45-0
at UAB, L, 29-10
Cincinnati, W, 23-20
at North Carolina, W, 20-12
at Louisville, L, 39-33
East Carolina, L, 19-3
Tulane, W, 36-31
at LSU, W, 20-7
at Army, W, 26-14

Schedule

S2—at Rice
S9—at LSU
S16—Army
S23—at Texas
S30—SMU
O7—at Cincinnati
O21—at Memphis
O28—Southern Miss
N4—at Tulane
N11—at East Carolina
N18—Louisville

Offensive philosophy: It's fitting that Houston served as the command base for NASA's manned flights to the moon because the Cougars are about to enter the space age on the field. The offense that new coach Dana Dimel, who takes over for Kim Helton, has brought from Wyoming is all about creating space, spreading the field with three receivers and one back, letting players make plays and relying on speed and execution.

Offensive stars: In the past, QB Jason McKinley found himself in different roles each week, asked to deliver from the pocket one game and then becoming a sideman to the running game the next. No more. After a subpar 1999, McKinley figures to post good numbers in the new attack. Of course, his numbers will be helped by having WR Jerrian James back running opposite Orlando Iglesias. Iglesias and James, who missed '99 with a broken leg, are the league's top 1-2 punch at wideout. The rangy, speedy pair ranks among the most dangerous duos in the land.

Offensive concerns: Perhaps it's hard to argue with the Cougars' penchant to run the ball last season, given McKinley's problematic decision-making and the burly line's ability to open lanes for RBs Mike Green and Ketric Sanford. However, Green and Sanford are gone, as are three of the five starters up front. Still, G Josh Lovelady is a terrific anchor, and up-and-coming RBs Joffrey Reynolds and Leif Penn could find seams to run in the new scheme. Another question lingers, however. With an emphasis on the pass, Houston needs more than just James and Iglesias. Brandon Middleton, who stepped up when James went down, will be a huge help, but the Cougars are counting on the junior college ranks for help.

Defensive philosophy: Despite the new coach, the Cougars won't look much different. Dick Bumpas was retained as co-coordinator and will run a 4-2-5 scheme that features a linebacker/safety hybrid. The versatile defense allows the Cougars to bring two safeties up in run support or drop five in coverage. Reads can be nightmarish, with three safeties in the passing lanes or blitzing with a linebacker dropping into coverage.

Defensive stars: T Nikia Adderson proved he's a pass rusher last season. LB Wayne Rogers is the cornerstone who will be flanked by Ryan Alvey and Waymond Ervin. Man coverage on the edge is critical, and Will Pettis and Jason Parker are a solid pair of corners.

Defensive concerns: The safeties key the defense, and '99 starters Mike James, Kenny Hill and Micah Malone are gone. Emile White, a converted corner, Antoine Johnson, Hamin Milligan, Heard Robinson and David Williams must perform like their predecessors.

Special teams: K/P Mike Clark gives Houston much-needed consistency in the kicking game. He'll be asked to do both again. The return slots are up for grabs and may not be finalized until two-a-days.

Head coach: Dimel, who learned his trade under Bill Snyder at Kansas State, stepped in at Wyoming after Joe Tiller left and stayed the course with the Cowboys, maintaining the wide-open attack the Cowboys had become known for. Houston has talked a good game in the past, vowing to open up the offense. Rest assured, this season the Cougars will.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Something to shoot for: *Iglesias needs 66 receptions and 1,297 yards this year to become Houston's all-time leader in both categories.*

Schedule: It might feel a bit like a Southwest Conference revival, with Rice, Texas and SMU on the non-conference schedule. The conference road is rough, with stops at Cincinnati and East Carolina, but home may prove even more unkind with visits from Southern Miss and Louisville.

Bottom line: It may be asking too much for the Cougars to rip things up this year. The offense may be deadly, assuming McKinley is up to snuff and the line can be reconstructed. But the Cougars have to replace the guts of their defense, and the schedule is demanding. Don't expect another 7-4 season.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Brandon Middleton**	**5-11**	**167**	**So.**	Kendall Williams	5-8	186	Sr.
T	Drew Lowery	6-5	276	Jr.	Josh Demarr	6-6	294	Jr.
G	*Rex Hadnot	6-1	316	Fr.	Darnarius Watson	6-2	299	Jr.
C	*Al James	6-0	279	Fr.	Patrick Boatner	6-1	301	Jr.
G	**Josh Lovelady**	**6-3**	**330**	**Sr.**	Tyrone Green	6-2	315	Jr.
T	**Jabari Beauford**	**6-3**	**317**	**Jr.**	Grover Thompson	6-5	290	Jr.
TE	Jonathan Pritchett	6-4	233	Jr.	Stephen Cucci	6-4	232	So.
WR	**Jerrian James**	**6-0**	**184**	**Sr.**	Jeremy McCardell	6-1	220	So.
QB	**Jason McKinley**	**6-3**	**210**	**Sr.**	Brian Thiebaud	6-2	202	Sr.
RB	Joffrey Reynolds	5-10	202	So.	Leif Penn	5-9	195	Jr.
WR	**Orlando Iglesias**	**6-1**	**210**	**Sr.**	Brian Robinson	6-3	193	So.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Sam Hairston	6-1	237	Sr.	Lee Ingersoll	6-3	248	Jr.
T	**Nikia Adderson**	**5-10**	**280**	**Sr.**	Robin Tremblay	6-2	266	Jr.
T	*Josh Tubbs	6-2	284	Fr.	Rufus Williams	6-4	307	Jr.
OLB	Ryan Alvey	6-3	240	Jr.	Bryan Hill	6-1	270	Jr.
MLB	**Wayne Rogers**	**6-1**	**236**	**Sr.**	Percy Forman	6-0	168	Jr.
OLB	Waymond Ervin	5-11	214	Jr.	Arthur Gissendanner	6-2	204	Jr.
CB	**Jason Parker**	**5-10**	**168**	**Jr.**	Bachie McGruder	5-11	174	Jr.
S	Heard Robinson	6-2	194	So.	Antoine Johnson	6-1	203	So.
SS	Hamin Milligan	6-2	183	Jr.	Emile White	6-1	216	Sr.
FS	David Williams	5-9	169	Sr.	Clint deGroot	5-10	188	Jr.
CB	**Will Pettis**	**6-1**	**184**	**Sr.**	Reggie Medlock	5-10	184	So.

Special Teams

K	Mike Clark	6-2	191	Sr.	P	Mike Clark	6-2	191	Sr.

4 Louisville

NATIONAL RANK 67

Coach: John L. Smith (14-10, 2 years; 83-49 overall, 11 years)
Offensive coordinator: Scott Linehan (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Chris Smeland (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: One back
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 39
Site: Louisville, Ky.
Stadium: Papa John's (grass, 42,000)
Last league title won: 1972 (Missouri Valley)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 47
1999 record: 7-5 (lost to Boise State in Humanitarian Bowl). C-USA: 4-2/T2nd

1999 Results

at Kentucky, W, 56-28
Chattanooga, W, 58-30
Illinois, L, 41-36
Oklahoma, L, 42-21
Eastern Mich., W, 45-10
at Army, L, 59-52 2 OT
at Memphis, W, 32-31
Houston, W, 39-33
UAB, W, 23-14
at Cincinnati, W, 23-13
Southern Miss, L, 30-27
Boise State, L, 34-31

Schedule

S2—Kentucky
S9—Grambling
S23—at Florida State
S30—Connecticut
O7—at UAB
O14—Cincinnati
O19—East Carolina
O28—Tulane
N4—at Southern Miss
N11—Army
N18—at Houston

Offensive philosophy: Coach John L. Smith has brought his version of the one-back offense to the bluegrass, transforming a once reeling program into a postseason player the past two seasons. Among the biggest questions is who that one back will be with Frank Moreau gone. But as Smith says, if the top three candidates come up lame, he'll plug another receiver into the lineup, spread the field more and throw the ball. Smith was kidding, we think.

Offensive stars: WR Arnold Jackson successfully petitioned for a fifth year of eligibility, meaning he'll need 64 receptions to become the first Division I-A player to catch 300 passes in a career. WRs Zek Parker and Deion Branch, both speed demons, will have to step up. C Jason Padget and Gs Joe O'Shaughnessy and Aaron Dardzinksi offer experience. Redshirt freshman Richard Owens gives Smith his first true tight end since arriving in town.

Offensive concerns: The offense was a juggernaut the past two seasons. Trouble is, graduation gutted the attack with QB Chris Redman, TE Ibn Green, Moreau, two of the top three receivers and both tackles bidding farewell. Tony Stallings or junior college transfer Chris Lester will run the ball. For now, Dave Ragone has the lead over Mike Watkins at quarterback.

Defensive philosophy: The Cards play a 4-3, though LB Michael Brown can creep up to the line and wreak havoc as an edge rusher or run defender. The scheme is sound; the Cards just haven't had the players to play it. They're getting closer, especially if Rashad Holman and Antonio Roundtree provide the press coverage needed to make the defense work.

Defensive stars: T Donovan Arp was a sweet surprise as a junior college transfer, but how much will he miss Mike Gantous not lining up next to him? E Michael Josiah knows how to get to the quarterback, and Brown is the most heralded defender. LB Rashad Harris is a tackling machine.

Defensive concerns: Louisville hasn't been able to stop the run, which has opened up the pass. And the cover guys haven't been good enough to stay with the better receivers on the schedule. The Cardinals are getting closer, with Smith recruiting speed and size on the edge. But unless Roundtree and Holman have improved dramatically, the Cards may have to play various zones, which would reduce the unit's aggressiveness. Safety also is a concern. Up front, can T Derrick Kennedy help stuff the run? The depth at end is promising.

Special teams: Parker is one of the best kickoff return men in the business, taking two back for touchdowns and averaging 24.6 yards in 1999. Jackson hasn't called for a fair catch in more than two seasons returning punts, and he averaged 11.4 yards per return last season. P Chris Sivori is adequate, but kicking duties are up for grabs.

Head coach: Smith is a personable sort with a spine of steel. He has corralled the chaos that once prevailed and turned around the Cards. Ironically, the former defensive coordinator has earned a reputation for potent offensive attacks. He knows what he's doing, in recruiting and on game day. Under his tutelage,

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Elite class: *Jackson, who caught 101 passes last season, needs just 66 more to eclipse Jerry Rice's all-division NCAA record.*

Louisville has become a team that usually has lost because it has been outscored. As he recruits defensive players to fit his scheme, Louisville will continue to threaten for the conference crown.

Schedule: OK, the Cards are playing at Florida State. But Grambling? Connecticut? C'mon. The opener with Kentucky sets the tone, and the conference schedule is favorable, with Southern Miss being the toughest of three road contests. A three-game October home stretch with Cincinnati, East Carolina and Tulane will determine postseason fate.

Bottom line: The defense should be better but still won't be better than average. That means the offense, which has many questions, must develop quickly in what looks like a retooling season.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Arnold Jackson**	**5-8**	**160**	**Sr.**	Damien Dorsey	5-7	165	So.
T	Rob Eble	6-6	290	Jr.	*Brian Devine	6-4	275	Fr.
G	**Aaron Dardzinski**	**6-0**	**260**	**Jr.**	Antoine Sims	6-3	270	So.
C	**Jason Padget**	**6-4**	**295**	**Sr.**	Ariel Rodriguez	6-5	320	So.
G	**Joe O'Shaughnessy**	**6-1**	**285**	**Sr.**	*Jason Hilliard	6-5	335	Fr.
T	Scott Graham	6-2	280	Sr.	Michael Bowers	6-4	295	Jr.
TE	*Richard Owens	6-4	240	Fr.	Erin Smith	6-4	220	So.
WR	**Zek Parker**	**5-10**	**180**	**Sr.**	Allen Carroll	5-10	165	Sr.
QB	Dave Ragone	6-4	220	Jr.	Mike Watkins	6-4	210	Sr.
RB	Tony Stallings	5-11	205	Jr.	*T.J. Patterson	6-0	185	Fr.
WR	Deion Branch	5-10	185	Jr.	*Victor Glenn	6-0	165	Fr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Matt Sexton**	**6-2**	**250**	**Sr.**	Toby Dawson	6-2	250	Sr.
T	**Donovan Arp**	**6-3**	**250**	**Sr.**	*Dewayne White	6-2	250	Fr.
T	Derrick Kennedy	6-3	270	Sr.	Scott Lopez	6-4	260	So.
E	Michael Josiah	6-3	240	So.	Devon Thomas	6-2	230	So.
OLB	Jeremy Collins	6-1	245	So.	James Greene	6-3	200	So.
MLB	**Rashad Harris**	**6-2**	**220**	**Sr.**	Rod Day	6-1	190	So.
OLB	**Michael Brown**	**5-11**	**200**	**So.**	Adriel Walker	5-10	200	Jr.
CB	**Antonio Roundtree**	**5-7**	**185**	**Sr.**	Donte Andrews	6-0	175	So.
S	Curry Burns	6-0	185	So.	**Justin Thomas**	**6-0**	**190**	**Jr.**
S	Anthony Floyd	5-11	200	So.	Brian Gaines	5-7	180	Jr.
CB	**Rashad Holman**	**5-11**	**190**	**Sr.**	*Josh Minkins	5-10	170	Fr.

Special Teams

K	*Wade Tylacka	5-11	190	Fr.	Brad Shushman	6-0	175	Fr.	**P**	**Chris Sivori**	**6-0**	**215**	**So.**	*Wade Tylacka	5-11	190	Fr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 Cincinnati

NATIONAL RANK 72

Coach: Rick Minter (27-39-1, 6 years)
Offensive coordinator: Joe Daniels (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Rick Smith (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 4
Lettermen lost: 10
Lettermen returning: 54
Site: Cincinnati
Stadium: Nippert (turf, 35,000)
Last league title won: 1964 (Missouri Valley)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 91
1999 record: 3-8. C-USA: 0-6/9th

1999 Results

Kent, W, 41-3
Troy State, L, 31-24
Wisconsin, W, 17-12
at Ohio State, L, 34-20
at Houston, L, 23-20
UAB, L, 24-21
at Southern Miss, L, 28-20
at Miami (Ohio), W, 52-42
Louisville, L, 23-13
at East Carolina, L, 48-34
Memphis, L, 21-13

Schedule

S2—Army
S9—Syracuse
S16—at Wisconsin
S23—at Indiana
S30—at Tulane
O7—Houston
O14—at Louisville
O29—Miami (Ohio)
N4—UAB
N11—at Memphis
N18—Southern Miss

Offensive philosophy: After years of smash-mouthing foes, the Bearcats have switched to a spread. Smart move, especially with nimble and strong-armed quarterback Deontey Kenner. But the Bearcats haven't abandoned the run, chalking up 1,894 yards in 1999.

Offensive stars: Kenner is a multi-purpose threat who will work behind a line, headed by C Doug Rosfeld, that returns all of its starters and has enough depth to offset the injuries that plagued the Bearcats the past two seasons. The depth on the line may be matched only by the depth at receiver. In Jason Collins-Baker, LaDaris Vann, Antonio Chatman and Tony Smikle, Cincinnati has possession receivers and home run hitters. Junior college transfer Robert Drewery may turn out to be the best of the bunch. TE Ashley Hunt is an underrated weapon.

Offensive concerns: Kenner threw 15 interceptions last year. Chalk up part of that to poor decision-making in his first full season as starter. And part can be attributed to injuries that stripped the receiving corps of a consistent rotation. The biggest question is who will be RB Robert Cooper's replacement? Heir apparent P.J. Mays transferred to Youngstown State to be closer to home, leaving Nathan Wize and Lloyd Garden in the mix. Ray Jackson, a transfer from Michigan, could be the answer, as could Charles Spencer, a transfer from Missouri Western.

Defensive philosophy: A constantly changing staff, including four defensive coordinators in coach Rick Minter's six years at Cincinnati, has left the unit riding a roller coaster. From 1995-97, the Bearcats were among the nation's top 33 defenses before struggling the past two seasons, when youth and injury crippled the team. The Bearcats are counting on their 4-3 scheme to produce better results.

Defensive stars: T Mario Monds gets good penetration, and LBs Eddie Johnson and Troy Evans are underrated. The secondary will get an immediate lift with the return of CB Blue Adams, who missed last season with a knee injury.

Defensive concerns: Though the line returns experience and depth, the unit was gouged for 177.5 yards rushing per game last season and averaged one sack. Though Johnson and Evans make tackles, they lack speed. The secondary, led by Adams and FS DeJuan Gossett, is expected to be as good as it has been in years, but CB Ivan Fields and SS Gerry Ruff must prove they are full-time players.

Special teams: Cincinnati missed 13-of-20 field goals and five extra points. Jonathon Ruffin returns, but Victor DiMauro will have an opportunity to win the job. Punting is in good shape with Adam Wulfeck, who averaged 42.2 yards. Chatman is a dangerous return man, averaging 27.9 yards on kickoffs, but the punt return team managed just 6.5 yards.

Head coach: Minter has seen good times, posting winning seasons from 1995-97 and victories over Virginia Tech, Wisconsin and Boston College in his tenure. But a 27-39-1 record and a combined 1-11 Conference USA mark the past two seasons has put him on the hot seat. Cincinnati has had trouble retaining assistants, who usually leave for greener pastures after successful seasons or are dismissed after losing years. Minter has done a credible job at a school that's in tough recruiting territory and plays in a pro town.

CINCINNATI

Strong armed: *One week after Cincinnati's stunning upset of Wisconsin last year, Kenner threw for 343 in a near-upset of Ohio State.*

Schedule: The Bearcats must split four non-league games. The conference road schedule is doable, with games at Tulane, Louisville and Memphis. A November 18 home date with Southern Miss could mean something for both clubs.

Bottom line: With Kenner behind a sturdy line, the Bearcats could have their best offense in years. The big question will be the defense. Cincinnati has more pieces, but does it have enough to complete the picture? If so, it's possible this team could be a dark horse.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Antonio Chatman	5-11	180	Sr.	Tim Walker	5-11	181	Jr.
T	**Mike Love**	**6-4**	**301**	**Sr.**	Shawn Murphy	6-4	285	So.
G	**Andy Weinheimer**	**6-4**	**310**	**Jr.**	Ted Forrest	6-3	310	Jr.
C	**Doug Rosfeld**	**6-4**	**282**	**Sr.**	Jason Lisek	6-4	281	Sr.
G	Kirt Doolin	6-4	308	So.	**DeWayne Johnston**	**6-1**	**283**	**Jr.**
T	**Josh Gardner**	**6-4**	**265**	**So.**	*Chris Rehfuss	6-3	264	Fr.
TE	**Ashley Hunt**	**6-5**	**248**	**Sr.**	Eric Louallen	6-2	292	So.
WR	**Jason Collins-Baker**	**5-11**	**190**	**Sr.**	Tye Keith	5-8	182	So.
QB	**Deontey Kenner**	**6-2**	**204**	**Sr.**	Adam Hoover	6-1	192	Jr.
RB	Ray Jackson	6-2	210	Jr.	Charles Spencer	5-10	205	Jr.
FB	**Lloyd Garden**	**5-11**	**240**	**Jr.**	Nathan Wize	5-6	196	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Kirk Gibbs	6-1	270	Sr.	**Darryll Ransom**	**6-1**	**246**	**So.**
T	**Mario Monds**	**6-4**	**329**	**Sr.**	DeMarcus Billlings	6-0	251	So.
T	Greg Lee	6-4	242	Sr.	**Kirk Thompson**	**6-1**	**261**	**Jr.**
E	**Derrick Adams**	**6-0**	**230**	**So.**	Joe Hamilton	6-2	248	Jr.
OLB	**Troy Evans**	**6-1**	**236**	**Sr.**	Lewis Carter	6-2	216	Jr.
MLB	**Eddie Johnson**	**5-11**	**229**	**Sr.**	Willis Edwards	5-11	216	So.
OLB	**Isaac Thomas**	**5-11**	**213**	**Sr.**	Antonio Davis	6-1	200	Sr.
CB	LaVar Glover	5-10	172	Jr.	Blue Adams	5-10	186	So.
SS	Gerry Ruff	5-11	185	Sr.	Freddy Smith	6-0	190	Sr.
FS	**DeJuan Gossett**	**5-11**	**202**	**Sr.**	Frank Lang	5-9	187	So.
CB	Ivan Fields	5-11	182	So.	Anthony Thomas	6-1	160	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Jonathon Ruffin**	**5-10**	**170**	**So.**	P	**Adam Wulfeck**	**6-0**	**220**	**Jr.**

More on Cincinnati at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/cincinnati/ AOL keyword: TSN

6 Memphis

NATIONAL RANK 81

Coach: Rip Scherer (18-37, 5 years; 47-56 overall, 9 years)
Offensive coordinator: Rip Scherer and Jimmy Kiser (1st seasons)
Defensive coordinator: Tommy West (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple option
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 52
Site: Memphis, Tenn.
Stadium: Liberty Bowl (grass, 62,380)
Last league title won: 1971 (Missouri Valley)
Last bowl appearance: 1971
1999 TSN rank: 66
1999 record: 5-6. C-USA: 4-2/T2nd

1999 Results

Mississippi, L, 3-0
at Mississippi St., L, 13-10
Arkansas State, W, 31-26
at Tennessee, L, 17-16
Missouri, L, 27-17
at UAB, W, 38-14
Louisville, L, 32-31
at Tulane, W, 49-7
Southern Miss, L, 20-5
Army, W, 14-10
at Cincinnati, W, 21-13

Schedule

S2—Mississippi State
S9—Louisiana-Monroe
S16—at Arkansas State
S23—at Army
S30—at Southern Miss
O7—East Carolina
O14—at UAB
O21—Houston
N4—Tennessee
N11—Cincinnati
N18—at Tulane

Offensive philosophy: It's said the smart man plays to his strengths and minimizes his weaknesses, which is why the Tigers will feature more of an option attack this season. The scheme will feature one of QB Travis Anglin's best assets and take advantage of a beefy line. It also will help take pressure off a young receiving corps that lacks a target the caliber of former Tigers Isaac Bruce, Russell Copeland and Damien Dodson.

Offensive stars: Anglin missed spring practice after off-season shoulder surgery, but the sophomore is expected to make a complete recovery and step back into the starting role he held for the final four games of 1999. QB Neil Suber, who began '99 as the starter, has a bigger arm, but the team moved the ball better with Anglin. Ts Artis Hicks and DeCorye Hampton are pile-drivers.

Offensive concerns: RB Jeff "Sugar" Sanders has carried the tag "promising" since arriving on campus, but injuries have curtailed his output. Can he become the main man in a running game that's being asked to carry the offense? Will Darche Epting or walk-on Aaron Meadows help? Anglin isn't a veteran, so expect mistakes, but the Tigers would do well to take better care of the ball. Fifteen interceptions last season were too many. In a day of speed defenses, it may be tough for the option to succeed on a regular basis. WRs Reginald Perkins, Ryan Johnson and Casey Rooney need to become consistent playmakers.

Defensive philosophy: This unit improved greatly under coordinator John Thompson, who brought his mutated 3-4 to town. But Thompson left after one season. Former Clemson coach Tommy West has been brought in. That means the Tigers will play more of a 4-3, which ought to play to the unit's strength up the middle. And though West's approach may not be as frantic as Thompson's attacking scheme, look for the Tigers to come after folks, especially with the secondary returning plenty of veteran talent.

Defensive stars: Like a good baseball team, the strengths are up the middle in T Calvin Lewis, NT Marcus Bell and LBs Kamal Shakir and DeMorrio Shank.

Defensive concerns: The Tigers returned to their traditionally stingy ways under Thompson. Memphis thinks that will continue, but it's a new system with new coaches. Memphis allowed the fewest passing yards per game (170 yards) of any conference team last season, combining pressure with multiple coverages. With the proliferation of spread offenses, can the Tigers do that again?

Special teams: K Ryan White is among the best in the business. He has the accuracy and the leg to hit from beyond 50 yards. He also is weapon on kickoffs. The punter's spot is up for grabs, with Ben Graves the top candidate to replace Jim Cande. The return teams were among the worst in the conference, though Ryan Johnson should help on kickoffs.

Head coach: Rip Scherer was rewarded with a two-year contract extension last season, removing himself from the hot seat. Scherer is considered one of the good guys in the game, a solid coach who does things the right way and is a plus to the community. But with a new president at Memphis, Scherer needs to build on last season's success.

MEMPHIS

Backbone: *Memphis' decision to play more of a 4-3 scheme will play to the defense's strength up the middle, where Shakir roams.*

Schedule: For the first time in years, the Tigers don't open with murderer's row. In fact, there's a shot for a 3-1 start. The Tigers will discover where they stand in C-USA during a four-week run from September 30 to October 21. The big day for the locals will be November 4, when Tennessee visits for the first time since the Tigers stunned the Vols in 1996.

Bottom line: Memphis should have a good enough defense to stay in most games, but the question remains, as its has for the past decade: Does the offense have enough firepower to score against legit foes? Still, given the schedule, six wins are possible.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Ryan Johnson**	**5-11**	**185**	**So.**	Al Sermon	6-4	179	Sr.
T	**Artis Hicks**	**6-4**	**295**	**Jr.**	Austin O'Dell	6-4	294	Sr.
G	Josh Eargle	6-2	270	Jr.	Trey Eyre	6-2	283	So.
C	Jimond Pugh	6-2	298	So.	Jason Austin	6-3	300	So.
G	**Lou Esposito**	**6-5**	**312**	**Sr.**	Matt Gehrke	6-2	280	So.
T	**DeCorye Hampton**	**6-8**	**325**	**Sr.**	Baki Celaj	6-4	296	So.
TE	**Billy Kendall**	**6-5**	**235**	**Sr.**	Wade Smith	6-4	256	So.
WR	Reginald Perkins	5-9	160	Jr.	Casey Rooney	6-0	192	Sr.
QB	**Travis Anglin**	**6-4**	**201**	**So.**	Neil Suber	6-3	236	Jr.
RB	Jeff Sanders	5-10	206	So.	Dernice Wherry	6-0	199	Jr.
FB	Darche Epting	6-1	233	So.	Nick Tsatsaronis	6-2	252	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Tony Brown	6-2	258	Jr.	Ross Estes	6-3	241	So.
NT	**Marcus Bell**	**6-2**	**305**	**Sr.**	Gerald Massey	6-4	287	Sr.
T	**Calvin Lewis**	**6-4**	**282**	**Sr.**	Jarvis Slaton	6-3	282	Sr.
E	**Andre Arnold**	**6-4**	**234**	**Jr.**	Patrick Willis	6-2	253	Sr.
OLB	Ian Williams	6-4	232	Sr.	*DeMarquis Terry	6-0	210	Fr.
MLB	**Kamal Shakir**	**6-1**	**238**	**Sr.**	*Will Hyden	6-0	217	Fr.
OLB	**DeMorrio Shank**	**5-10**	**225**	**Sr.**	*Greg Harper	6-0	213	Fr.
CB	**Marcus Smith**	**5-10**	**178**	**Jr.**	Emery Bell	5-9	170	So.
SS	Glenn Sumter	6-0	196	So.	Keydrin Ward	6-0	177	Jr.
FS	**Idrees Bashir**	**6-3**	**202**	**Jr.**	**Fred Powell**	**5-10**	**198**	**Sr.**
CB	**Michael Stone**	**6-0**	**182**	**Sr.**	Kosha Irby	6-1	195	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Ryan White**	**5-9**	**182**	**Jr.**	**P**	Ben Graves	6-3	216	Sr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

7 Tulane

NATIONAL RANK 92

Coach: Chris Scelfo (4-8, 2 years; 125-55 overall, 14 years)
Offensive coordinator: Chris Scelfo (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Pete McGinnis (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Mutliple
Starters lost: 3
Lettermen lost: 8
Lettermen returning: 48
Site: New Orleans
Stadium: Superdome (turf, 69,767)
Last league title won: 1998
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 92
1999 record: 3-8. C-USA: 1-5/T7th

1999 Results

at Southern Miss, L, 48-14
SMU, W, 53-19
Army, W, 48-28
at Syracuse, L, 47-17
at Mississippi, L, 20-13
La.-Lafayette, W, 48-32
at East Carolina, L, 52-7
Memphis, L, 49-7
at Houston, L, 36-31
at Navy, L, 45-21
UAB, L, 23-20

Schedule

S2—at Mississippi
S16—at East Carolina
S23—at SMU
S30—Cincinnati
O7—at La.-Lafayette
O14—Southern Miss
O21—at Army
O28—at Louisville
N4—Houston
N11—Navy
N18—Memphis

Offensive philosophy: Tulane is going to spread the field and throw the ball out of a one-back, three-receiver base. The Green Wave will shuffle its sets about as often as a party breaks out in New Orleans. Look for a bit more two-back look, with TE Mike Truax slipping into the backfield as a fullback.

Offensive stars: QB Patrick Ramsey rewrote the record book in his first season as a starter, setting or tying 20 school passing marks. But UCLA transfer J.P. Losman impressed in the spring and will battle for snaps this fall. WRs Adrian Burnette, Terrell Harris and Zander Robinson will help make up for the loss of JaJuan Dawson. Assuming an NCAA investigation uncovers no recruiting hanky-panky, true freshman RB Ronald McClendon could be a major boost to the running game. Blocking should be a strength, with four of five starters returning to a line that many thought played below its 1998 standard. Ts Bernard Robertson and Corey Sewell are solid flank protectors.

Offensive concerns: Despite his awesome numbers, Ramsey is being challenged for his job because he threw 24 interceptions. Tulane ranked last in the league in rushing, and the indefinite suspension of RBs Toney Converse and Michael Burks (an Auburn transfer) in the spring doesn't bode well. Tulane must find a way to cut down on a league-worst 35 turnovers and become more productive in the red zone.

Defensive philosophy: Tulane's 4-3 isn't nearly as aggressive as some of the other schemes in the conference, though with a year's experience in Pete McGinnis' scheme, new wrinkles likely will be installed. To attack aggressively, teams must have corners who can play press coverage and a line that can gum up the running alleys. But with smallish corners and an athletic-but-undersized front, Tulane had trouble stopping the run and was shredded through the air late in the year. Injuries factored in, too.

Defensive stars: LB Jerry Phillips is a masher, and returning CBs Tim Carter and Ky Joseph are being counted upon to have better seasons.

Defensive concerns: The line returns most of the same players, but size remains a concern. LB Noel Ellis, Tulane's leading tackler in '99, is suspended while the Secret Service investigates allegations he passed counterfeit $20 bills. The secondary is smallish, but Joseph and FS Quentin Brown are exceptional athletes and with a year of experience, coaches hope they can compensate for a lack of brawn with brains.

Special teams: The return game was lacking for a team that was loaded with players at the skill positions. Punt returns and coverage were better. With the speed that coach Chris Scelfo and staff have recruited the past two seasons, look for improvement. K Seth Marler and P Casey Roussel are among the best in the conference.

Head coach: Scelfo's biggest drawback his first season was his name wasn't Tommy Bowden, who led Tulane to three more wins (19) in his two seasons in New Orleans than the Wave chalked up during the first seven seasons of the 1990s (16). Scelfo is a work in progress in his first head-coaching job, but the New Orleans native has the coaching experience (Marshall, Georgia) and connections to get Tulane back on track. Unfortunately, he's going to need a few more recruiting classes like his first two before that's going to happen.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Look here: *Burnette (above) had more receiving yards and a higher per-catch average in '99 than Dawson, a third-round NFL draft pick.*

Schedule: The non-conference games aren't horrible, with Ole Miss and Navy offering the biggest challenges. But six of Tulane's first eight games are on the road, including the C-USA opener at East Carolina. Late-October trips to Army and Louisville could be brutal for kids used to playing in climate-controlled environs.

Bottom line: Tulane ended the '99 season with five straight losses and likely will pick up where it left off. Expect a season full of basketball game-like scores and victories scattered few and far between.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Zander Robinson	6-3	225	Jr.	*Nick Narcisse	6-0	174	Fr.
T	**Bernard Robertson**	**6-4**	**285**	**Sr.**	Derick Bugg	6-3	284	So.
G	Chrys Bullock	6-3	311	Jr.	Mark Tyler	6-0	284	Jr.
C	**Torie Taulli**	**6-0**	**256**	**Jr.**	Brendon Drysdale	6-1	287	So.
G	**Charles Caldwell**	**6-3**	**285**	**Jr.**	Bryson Westbrook	6-2	267	Sr.
T	**Corey Sewell**	**6-2**	**260**	**Jr.**	Seth Zaunbrecher	6-4	275	So.
TE	Mike Truax	6-1	237	Sr.	*Tim Pinter	6-5	236	Fr.
WR	**Terrell Harris**	**5-10**	**187**	**Jr.**	John Wilson	5-5	166	Sr.
WR	**Adrian Burnette**	**6-0**	**174**	**Sr.**	*James Dunn	5-8	158	Fr.
QB	**Patrick Ramsey**	**6-3**	**225**	**Jr.**	*J.P. Losman	6-3	200	Fr.
RB	Jeff Sanchez	5-10	166	So.	Genario Reshard	5-6	183	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Floyd Dorsey**	**6-0**	**236**	**So.**	Ryan Brewer	6-4	260	Jr.
T	**Mitch Mouton**	**6-5**	**265**	**Sr.**	*Terence Tarver	6-1	250	Fr.
T	Marlon Tickles	6-1	273	So.	Domonick Crockett	6-3	270	Sr.
E	Glenn Lemoine	6-3	250	Jr.	*Alex Battard	6-2	224	Fr.
OLB	David Dorsey	6-1	217	Jr.	*Daniel Nevil	6-1	205	Fr.
MLB	**Jerry Phillips**	**5-11**	**232**	**Sr.**	J.R. Mouton	6-0	236	Jr.
OLB	Corey Jones	5-11	203	Sr.	**Delando Davis**	**6-2**	**196**	**Jr.**
CB	**Tim Carter**	**6-0**	**183**	**Sr.**	John Wilson	5-5	166	Sr.
SS	Terry Fontenot	5-11	187	So.	**Sam Knight**	**5-11**	**190**	**Sr.**
FS	Quentin Brown	5-9	160	So.	**Meldon Barnes**	**5-11**	**190**	**Jr.**
CB	Jamal Jones	5-11	175	Jr.	Trey Godfrey	5-9	166	So.

Special Teams

K	**Seth Marler**	**6-0**	**178**	**So.**	P	**Casey Roussel**	**6-0**	**223**	**Jr.**

More on Tulane at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/tulane/ AOL keyword: TSN

8 UAB

Coach: Watson Brown (24-31, 5 years; 56-108-1 overall, 15 years)
Offensive coordinator: Pat Sullivan (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Bill Clay (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 13
Lettermen returning: 60
Site: Birmingham, Ala.
Stadium: Legion Field (grass, 83,091)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: none
1999 TSN rank: 76
1999 record: 5-6. C-USA: 4-2/T2nd

1999 Results

at Missouri, L, 31-28
at Virginia Tech, L, 31-10
Houston, W, 29-10
La.-Monroe, W, 47-0
Memphis, L, 38-14
at Cincinnati, W, 24-21 OT
at Wake Forest, L, 47-3
at Louisville, L, 23-14
East Carolina, W, 36-17
Louisiana Tech, L, 41-20
at Tulane, W, 23-20 OT

Schedule

S7—Chattanooga
S16—at Kansas
S23—at LSU
S30—Louisiana-Lafayette
O7—Louisville
O14—Memphis
O21—Middle Tenn. St.
O28—at East Carolina
N4—at Cincinnati
N11—Southern Miss
N18—at Army

NATIONAL RANK 100

Offensive philosophy: After running an option attack for the previous eight years, the Blazers wanted to install a pro-set scheme last season. But midway through, UAB reverted to a modified option to suit its personnel, particularly QB Daniel Dixon. The Blazers will stay with that look this season, employing an option that will feature RBs Carl Fair and Percy Coleman. Expect everything: split-back sets, an I, a back in the slot and an empty backfield. The Blazers will run the same five to 10 plays in a ball-control attack that is designed to eat clock and keep the defense off the field.
Offensive stars: Dixon averaged 139.7 yards of offense. That total may rise now that the Blazers have committed to an offense that he's best-suited and most comfortable operating. Fair was UAB's top back until a broken leg sidelined him midway through the season. Coleman is a big-play threat carrying or catching the ball. Tough RB Cedric Thatch is back for a fifth season, and Jegil Dugger adds depth. The line is loaded with experience.
Defensive philosophy: UAB plays a mutant 4-3, with four linemen, two linebackers and five defensive backs, though the strong safety is more of a safety/linebacker. The scheme will feature new wrinkles, with the Blazers bringing eight men to the line and then dropping back players before the snap. The approach should help shore up an inconsistent run defense. But the shifting could leave the Blazers susceptible to big plays.
Defensive stars: Es Bryan Thomas and Otis Leverette, along with inside men Eddie Freeman and Marlon Bush, anchor a deep, athletic front that will get pressure on quarterbacks.
Defensive concerns: Beyond the front, the Blazers will have to plug in players with varying amounts of experience, including safeties Wes Foss and Adrian Singleton and CBs Dwight Platt and Maurice Gallery. CB Rodregis Brooks, who left early for the NFL, will be missed. Little-used Avery Warner will be counted on to step in at strong safety, the most complicated position in the scheme. Linebacker also is a mixed bag from an experience standpoint, with Adrian Abrams in the middle and Nick Stewart at an outside spot. The front lacks size.
Special teams: K Rhett Gallego, last year's extra-point specialist, is accurate from about 35 yards but lacks leg strength. New P Ross Stewart boomed the ball this spring. The Blazers have big-play return men in Thatch and Gallery on kickoffs and Coleman and Platt on punts.

Head coach: Watson Brown has been around the block, heading into his 16th season as head coach with stints at Austin Peay, Cincinnati, Rice and Vanderbilt. He has assembled an experienced and talented staff that is familiar with the recruiting paths of the South. And this isn't a staff that will become bamboozled on game day because it knows how to make the necessary adjustments. As UAB's depth chart becomes deeper and more talented, the Blazers should make noise.
Schedule: Call it a late welcome-to-the-conference gift, but because of scheduling quirks associated with the league going to seven conference games, the Blazers have had to designate their game at Kansas as a Conference USA game. The rest of the non-league menu is doable, with LSU on the road and home games with Chattanooga, Louisiana-Lafayette and Middle Tennessee State. UAB, which shocked many with a 4-2 league mark in '99, will discover where its conference fortunes rest with a home schedule that includes Louisville, Memphis and Southern Miss.
Bottom line: The Blazers went 5-6 in '99 against a schedule that included Virginia Tech, Missouri and Wake Forest. The Blazers may go 5-6 again, but they will be hard-pressed to break even in the league. UAB has decent talent, but after last season, no one will overlook the Blazers.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Just for you: *Dixon, a fifth-year senior, should excel in the new offense the Blazers are using, since it was designed primarily for him.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Royd Williams	6-2	204	Jr.	Kenny Borders	6-3	185	So.
T	**Tony Dollison**	**6-2**	**285**	**Sr.**	Philip Gambrell	6-7	280	So.
G	**Preston Fray**	**6-5**	**295**	**Sr.**	Kirk Tuck	6-1	285	Jr.
C	Brett Richards	6-4	275	Jr.	Ryan Estes	6-3	285	Sr.
G	**Tim Medders**	**6-3**	**290**	**Sr.**	Kevin Ford	6-1	285	Sr.
T	**Kevin Grace**	**6-4**	**285**	**Sr.**	*Artavious Williams	6-5	340	Fr.
TE	**Undrae Crosby**	**6-5**	**275**	**Sr.**	Johnni Arrington	6-5	260	Sr.
WR	Leron Little	6-6	220	Jr.	Travis Johnson	6-3	195	Sr.
QB	**Daniel Dixon**	**6-3**	**195**	**Sr.**	Thomas Cox	6-2	185	So.
RB	**Percy Coleman**	**5-10**	**185**	**Sr.**	Cedric Thatch	5-11	185	Sr.
FB	**Carl Fair**	**6-2**	**215**	**Sr.**	Cory Conley	6-1	205	Jr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Bryan Thomas**	**6-4**	**220**	**Sr.**	Hassan McKeithan	6-2	235	Jr.
T	**Marlon Bush**	**6-3**	**250**	**Jr.**	James Malone	6-3	265	Jr.
NG	**Eddie Freeman**	**6-6**	**285**	**Jr.**	Rodney Jones	6-2	275	Jr.
E	**Otis Leverette**	**6-7**	**275**	**Sr.**	Rajohn Myles	6-1	260	Sr.
MLB	**Adrian Abrams**	**6-1**	**235**	**Jr.**	Jeremy Carter	6-2	215	Jr.
OLB	Nick Stewart	5-11	220	Jr.	Starlin Ridley	6-0	225	So.
CB	Maurice Gallery	5-11	185	Jr.	Patrick Burchfield	5-11	175	Jr.
FS	**Adrian Singleton**	**6-2**	**210**	**Jr.**	T.J. Simmons	6-3	205	Jr.
SS	Avery Warner	6-2	195	Jr.	*Leroy Harris	6-2	192	Fr.
S	Sentell Winston	6-2	195	Jr.	Andrew Kopecky	5-11	180	Jr.
CB	**Chris Brown**	**6-2**	**185**	**So.**	Dwight Platt	5-11	185	So.

Special Teams

K	Rhett Gallego	6-0	185	Jr.
P	Ross Stewart	6-0	180	So.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

9 Army

NATIONAL RANK 104

Coach: Todd Berry (First season; 24-24 overall, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: John Bond (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Dennis Therrell (1st season)
Offensive scheme: One back
Defensive scheme: 4-4
Starters lost: 13
Lettermen lost: 33
Lettermen returning: 31
Site: West Point, N.Y.
Stadium: Michie (turf, 39,929)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 90
1999 record: 3-8. C-USA: 1-5/T7th

1999 Results

Wake Forest, L, 34-15
at Tulane, L, 48-28
Ball State, W, 41-21
East Carolina, L, 33-14
Louisville, W, 59-52 2 OT
at Southern Miss, L, 24-0
New Mexico St., W, 35-18
at Air Force, L, 28-0
at Memphis, L, 14-10
Houston, L, 26-14
Navy, L, 19-9

Schedule

S2—at Cincinnati
S9—Boston College
S16—at Houston
S23—Memphis
O7—at New Mexico State
O14—at East Carolina
O21—Tulane
N4—Air Force
N11—at Louisville
N18—UAB
D2—Navy*
*at Baltimore, Md.

Offensive philosophy: The U.S. Military Academy reveres traditions like few other institutions, but change—radical change—is coming to West Point this fall. The academy relied on Bob Sutton's option offense for nine years, but new coach Todd Berry is bringing a one-back, three-wide receiver scheme to the banks of the Hudson River, hoping to return to past glory by embracing the present move toward the spread offense.

Offensive stars: QBs Joe Gerena and Chad Jenkins operated the option last season, but Berry thinks each has the right stuff to run the one-back. G Dustin Plumadore could end up being one of the best to come through the academy in decades. Speedy WR Omari Thompson should be giddy about the new scheme. He'll finally see more than 25 passes coming his way.

Offensive concerns: No. 1 is the installation of a new way of life for the offense. Remember, these linemen aren't schooled in the art of pass blocking. Though Thompson should adjust fine and Gerena is a decent passer for an option guy, there may be a lack of skill-position talent. FB Michael Wallace spent the spring catching up on the books in prep school, though he could be back in the fall. The coaches are high on RB Josh Holden, and little-used Brian Bruenton, Bryan Bowdish and Bo Clift will get the first crack at filling the holes at wideout.

Defensive philosophy: Gone are the keep-everything-in-front-of-you days. Army wants to shift gears and install a 4-4-3 look that will require plenty of man coverage. It also will require more athletic players, especially on the edges. Unfortunately, those are the type of players Army has lacked for years.

Defensive stars: LB Lyle Weaver is a hard-hitting player who always seems to be around the ball. Es Zach Hurst and Ron Sporer are experienced, and FS Derick McNally is the quarterback of the secondary.

Defensive concerns: Are there enough Cadets to fill the holes and play the style Berry wants? CBs Brent Dial and Andrew Burke are undersized, as is LB Brian Zickefoose. Army will rely on a number of untested players to fill the depth chart, but even the experienced Cadets will be wading into uncharted waters.

Special teams: A bit of a mishmash, with K Brendan Mullen stepping in for a less-than-effective Matt Parker. Dan MacElroy gets first crack at the punting chores. Thompson has the potential to be a dangerous return man. Like the rest of the team, the coverage and return units lack speed.

Head coach: Berry took an Illinois State program that was on life support and within four years turned it into Gateway Conference champions. In 1999, Illinois State reached the I-AA playoff semifinals. Still, Berry faces a much larger task. It's going to take time, but don't count out Berry. Granted, the disciplined ways of West Point aren't for everybody, but at least the affable, dedicated Berry can tell prospective recruits they will be playing in a system that reflects the game of the 21st century.

Schedule: The regular bashes with Air Force and Navy are late. The Cadets may have the league's toughest road schedule with visits to East Carolina, Houston, Cincinnati and Louisville.

Bottom line: Berry will inject needed life into an offense that had become drab. But the Knights lack the speed and size to consistently stop foes and move the ball. The option was a dangerous scheme against teams with lesser defenses but struggled against quicker, disciplined teams. There also was the unspoken admission that the Cadets weren't as good as the other teams and had to play a style that allowed them to control the clock and keep their defense off the field. Berry, 39, is known for recruiting and has more to sell these days. But it will take him a while to turn the Cadets into a threat in conference play.

ARMY

Loves to hit: *Weaver, a three-year letterman with 21 career starts, is a good bet to register 100 or more tackles for a third consecutive season.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brian Bruenton	6-2	200	Jr.	Ted Ruzicka	5-11	169	Sr.
T	**Mike Larkin**	**6-4**	**266**	**Sr.**	Jared Churchill	6-1	272	Jr.
G	**Josh Gonzalez**	**6-1**	**291**	**Jr.**	Aaron Burger	6-3	273	So.
C	**Brandon Calhoun**	**6-1**	**297**	**Sr.**	Trent Garmon	6-1	309	So.
G	**Dustin Plumadore**	**6-1**	**295**	**Jr.**	Craig Cunningham	6-4	296	So.
T	Jon Karpuk	6-4	272	Sr.	Paul Henderson	6-3	285	Jr.
TE	Clint Dodson	6-3	236	Jr.	Tyler Sheble	6-3	215	Jr.
WR	Bryan Bowdish	5-10	180	Sr.	Calvin Smith	5-10	161	Jr.
QB	**Joe Gerena**	**6-0**	**208**	**Sr.**	Chad Jenkins	5-11	179	Jr.
RB	Alton McCallum	6-0	258	Jr.	Josh Holden	5-11	214	So.
WR	Omari Thompson	5-7	162	Jr.	Chris Pestel	5-11	177	So.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Zach Hurst**	**6-3**	**246**	**Sr.**	Clarence Holmes	6-2	254	So.
T	Randy Mitchell	5-9	233	Sr.	Graham Anderson	6-1	248	Jr.
T	Melvin Crittle	5-10	264	Sr.	Paddy Heiliger	6-4	262	So.
E	**Ron Sporer**	**6-1**	**245**	**Sr.**	Matt Cole	6-1	234	Sr.
OLB	**Derrick Goodwin**	**5-11**	**201**	**Sr.**	Warren Stewart	6-3	219	So.
ILB	**Lyle Weaver**	**5-11**	**230**	**Sr.**	B.J. Wiley	5-11	221	Jr.
ILB	Jesse Waters	6-0	225	Sr.	David McCracken	6-2	236	Sr.
OLB	**Brian Zickefoose**	**5-10**	**208**	**Jr.**	Shane Radtke	6-1	188	So.
CB	Brent Dial	6-0	180	Jr.	Mike Sehzue	5-10	176	So.
FS	**Derick McNally**	**6-2**	**191**	**Sr.**	Martin Pierce	6-1	175	So.
CB	Andrew Burke	5-6	162	Sr.	Emiko Terry	5-10	164	So.

Special Teams

K	Brendan Mullen	5-9	180	Sr.	Paul Stelzer	6-4	178	So.	P	Dan MacElroy	5-11	191	Jr.	Chris Castelli	5-11	205	So.

SCOUTING THE WAC

For a league that's suffering an identity crisis, one thing is certain: TCU will reign supreme

CONFERENCE RANK 9

By Arthur Garcia

Flux. For the better part of the last decade, the Western Athletic Conference has been in a perpetual state of change.

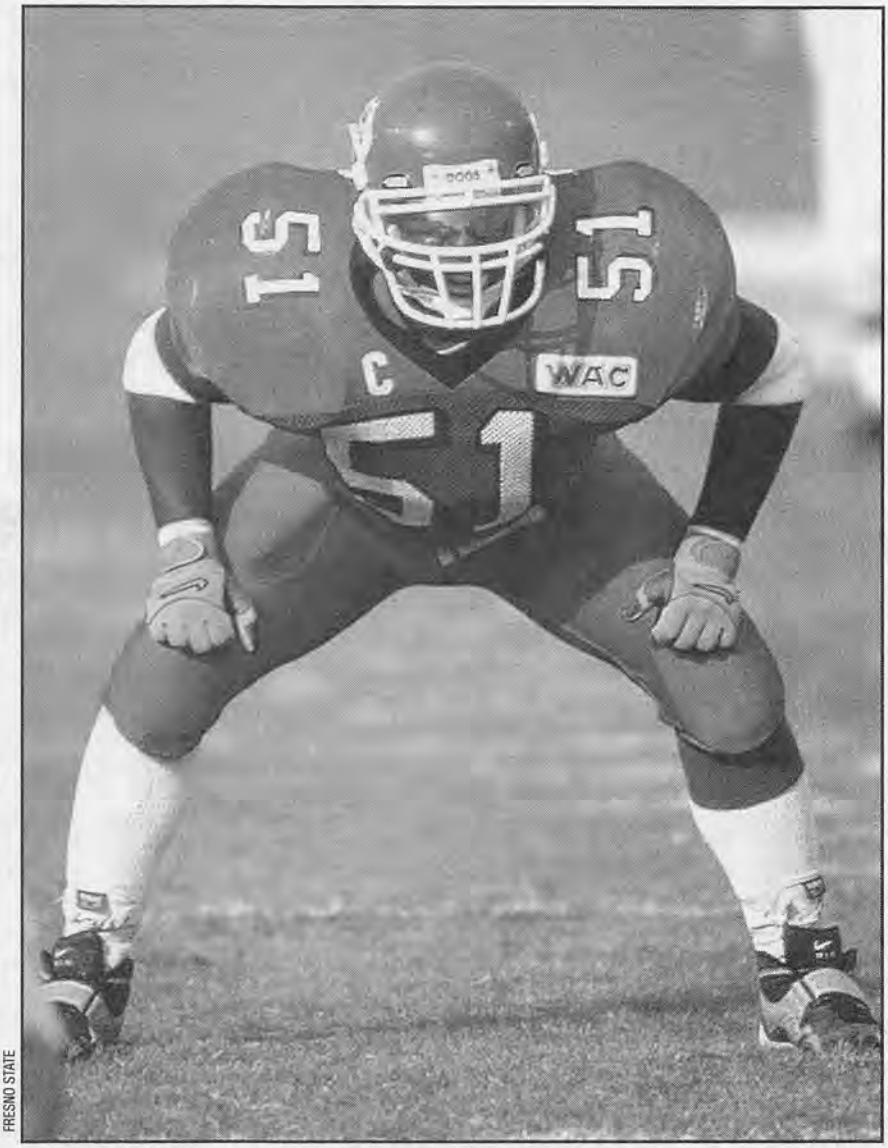
The league has gone through more incarnations than Darryl Strawberry comebacks, going from the BYU-dominated league of the 1980s to the ambitious 16-team super conference of the mid-90s to a league split in half by a bitter civil war late in the century.

The new WAC, on its feet again and ready to forge ahead, is nonetheless still far from stable. The favorite for the 2000 season, TCU, is entering its last year in the league before seeking greener pastures in Conference USA. The league's new additions—Nevada this year, Boise State and Louisiana Tech in 2001—don't register more than a collective blip on the major college football radar screen. And word out of SMU, which was spurned by C-USA, and Tulsa, another C-USA candidate, is that those schools may be looking to move on.

The identity crisis isn't lost on its coaches. "It's got to get to a point in time when people stop saying, 'Who's the WAC?' " first-year Tulsa coach Keith Burns said. "Right now, I don't think people can answer that. Once we establish who's in the WAC, then we can start selling it." Selling the conference to television, fans, media and itself falls on the shoulders of commissioner Karl Benson, who sat relatively powerless two years ago as eight members bolted to form the Mountain West Conference.

"We're still in a year of transition, yet last year's football season sent very strong message that the WAC will continue to be competitive," Benson said. "Losing TCU and the success they've had over the last couple years isn't something we wanted, but it's the sort of thing you talk about over the summer.

"It seems in the last few years we've become accustomed to playing with teams in their last season, but we're excited about the schools we're bringing on board. There's lot of momentum in the league right now."



FRESNO STATE

Good thing in a small package: *Fresno State's diminutive Skipper is a good example of the old adage that it's not the size of the dog in the fight that matters, it's the size of the fight in the dog.*

The WAC did break through in several respects last season, sending tri-champs TCU, Fresno State and Hawaii to bowl games, and winning two. Benson worked diligently after last season to line up three automatic bowl berths for this year, up one from last year, with a fourth tie-in a strong possibility.

Benson took some heat at the end of last season for striking a bowl deal that benefited resurgent Hawaii but nearly cost TCU a bowl berth. By renewing the WAC's one-year deal with the Mobile Alabama Bowl and adding the Boise-based Humanitarian Bowl, Benson should keep everyone happy.

Depending of the location of the regular-season champion, the WAC will send its champ to either the inaugural Silicon Valley Bowl in San Jose or the Mobile Alabama Bowl. If the league champion comes from the Central time zone (TCU, SMU, Rice or Tulsa), Mobile is the destination and a C-USA team awaits. If any of the other five teams win the WAC, the Silicon Bowl gets the champ, against a yet-to-be-decided foe. The Humanitarian Bowl gets third choice in both scenarios.

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
Fresno State	2	1	3	2	1	1	3	2	4	2
Hawaii	5	2	5	4	5	5	4	4	6	4
Nevada	9	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8
Rice	7	9	4	8	4	7	5	5	1	3
San Jose State	8	6	7	6	8	8	8	8	7	9
SMU	4	4	6	7	3	3	7	3	2	7
TCU	1	5	1	1	2	2	1	1	5	1
Tulsa	6	7	8	5	6	4	6	7	8	6
UTEP	3	3	2	3	7	6	2	6	3	5

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Preseason ALL-WAC First Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Rodney Wright, Fresno State	5-9	175	Jr.
WR	Charles Smith, Fresno State	5-9	175	Jr.
TE	Brian Natkin, UTEP	6-3	245	Sr.
T	David Bobo, TCU	6-5	291	Sr.
T	Chris Fe'esago, San Jose State	6-3	325	Jr.
G	Ahmad Bhatti, Fresno State	6-3	308	Sr.
G	Manly Kanoa, Hawaii	6-5	301	Jr.
C	Carey Clayton, UTEP	6-4	275	Sr.
QB	David Neill, Nevada	6-5	200	Jr.
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU	5-11	217	Sr.
RB	Deonce Whitaker, San Jose State	5-6	175	Sr.

Defense

E	Aaron Schobel, TCU	6-4	244	Sr.
E	Markus Pratt, SMU	6-0	255	Jr.
T	Shawn Worthen, TCU	6-1	290	Sr.
T	Alan Harper, Fresno State	6-2	275	Jr.
LB	Tim Skipper, Fresno State	5-7	200	Sr.
LB	Shannon Brazzell, TCU	5-11	228	Sr.
LB	Orlando Huff, Fresno State	6-3	230	Sr.
CB	Shawndel Tucker, Hawaii	5-9	170	Jr.
CB	Greg Walls, TCU	6-1	184	Sr.
S	Curtis Fuller, TCU	5-10	191	Sr.
S	Anthony Limbrick, Fresno State	6-1	205	Sr.

Specialists

K	Ricky Bishop, UTEP	5-9	170	Sr.
P	Travis Hale, Rice	6-3	215	So.
KR	Jamal Garland, Hawaii	5-9	172	Jr.

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Lee Mays, UTEP	6-3	190	Jr.
WR	Craig Stutzmann, Hawaii	5-11	187	Jr.
TE	Michael Brown, SMU	6-1	250	Jr.
T	Mike Keathley, TCU	6-4	295	Sr.
T	Clark Roosendaal, Nevada	6-6	300	Sr.
G	Jeff Millican, TCU	6-6	296	Sr.
G	Jeff Seeton, UTEP	6-5	290	Sr.
C	Steve Schiller, Tulsa	6-5	288	Sr.
QB	Rocky Perez, UTEP	6-0	205	Sr.
RB	Paris Gaines, Fresno State	6-1	220	Jr.
RB	Avion Weaver, Hawaii	5-10	220	Sr.

Defense

E	Joe Correia, Hawaii	6-2	260	Jr.
E	Justin Johnson, Fresno State	6-3	220	Sr.
T	Thabiti Lockhart, Fresno State	6-3	280	Sr.
T	B.J. Forguson, Rice	6-3	290	Jr.
LB	Ashon Farley, Tulsa	5-11	222	Sr.
LB	Josh Parry, San Jose State	6-2	243	Sr.
LB	Dan Dawson, Rice	6-2	200	Jr.
CB	Josh McMillan, Rice	5-11	170	Sr.
CB	Crance Clemons, UTEP	5-10	160	Jr.
S	Jason Hebert, Rice	6-0	185	Jr.
S	Vernon Fox, Fresno State	5-10	200	Jr.

Specialists

K	Derek Crabtree, Rice	6-4	210	Jr.
P	Casey Lipscomb, Tulsa	6-0	218	Jr.
KR	Charles Smith, Fresno State	5-9	175	Jr.

Newcomers of the Year

Offense: Nick Rolovich, QB, Hawaii

Defense: Deprimethon Lee, LB, SMU

TCU coach Dennis Franchione admits to mixed emotions going into his final year in the league. Led by Heisman Trophy candidate LaDainian Tomlinson, the Horned Frogs are the overwhelming favorites to win the league and gain a repeat appearance in Mobile.

"In some ways it would have been better to go on, but the fortunate thing is we are still in the WAC, and we do get to try and defend our portion of the title," said Franchione, who has led the Horned Frogs to consecutive bowl wins. "I'm sure the bull's-eye is amplified, but there's not much we can do about it except get ready to play and expect everybody to give us their best shot."

Ascending: UTEP and Tulsa. With the bulk of their offensive skill players back and a little help from the defense, the Miners' first winning season since 1988 is on the horizon. The Hurricanes' cupboard isn't bare, and with Burns taking over, expect Tulsa to more than double last season's two-win total.

Descending: Hawaii. The Warriors shocked the college football world in '99, but this season the world is ready to bite back. Not only are teams looking for payback, but Rainbows coach June Jones didn't win any friends by shooting his mouth off during the offseason. Opposing coaches won't hesitate to pour it on the Rainbows if given the chance.

Dream schedule: TCU. The Frogs have winnable games with Northwestern, Arkansas State and Navy. The WAC's other two contenders, Fresno State and Hawaii, come to Fort Worth. TCU fans are talking about an 11-0 season, and with this schedule it's a distinct possibility.

Nightmare schedule: San Jose State. Before September is over the Spartans will have traveled to Nebraska, Stanford and Southern California. Even if you're Florida State, that's a steep challenge. If you're

Recruiting RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Tyson Thompson	RB	6-2/195	Irving, Texas/Irving	TCU
2. Brandon Johnson	DT	6-3/285	Carrollton, Texas/Newman Smith	TCU
3. Timmy Chang	QB	6-2/190	Honolulu, Hawaii/St. Louis	Hawaii
4. Deprimethon Lee	LB	6-1/235	Nacogdoches, Texas/Nacogdoches	SMU
5. Marvin Godbolt	DB	6-1/188	San Antonio, Texas/Taft	TCU
6. Therrian Fontenot	RB	6-0/180	Lawndale, Calif./Leuzinger	Fresno State
7. Nick Rolovich	QB	6-2/210	Novato, Calif./City College of San Francisco	Hawaii
8. Fai Satele	DL	6-1/270	Carson, Calif./Carson	Fresno State
9. George Bensen	DL	6-2/300	Oakland, Calif./Skyline	Fresno State
10. Brandon Hassell	QB	6-2/190	Arlington, Texas/Houston	TCU
11. Gavin Boothe	WR	6-2/185	Grand Prairie, TexasSouth Grand Prairie	Rice
12. Derrick Pope	DB	6-0/195	Galveston, Texas/Ball	TCU
13. Robbie Beck	RB	5-11/212	Atlanta, Ga./Marist	Rice
14. Mark Tate	WR	6-1/200	San Diego, Calif./Hoover	Hawaii
15. Reggie Harrell	WR	6-3/200	Arlington, Texas/Lamar	TCU
16. Rico Harris	S	6-2/185	Nacogdoches, Texas/Nacogdoches	SMU
17. Greg Wilson	OL	6-4/300	Houston, Texas/Westbury	Rice
18. Cole McNair	ATH	6-5/200	Springdale, Ark./Shiloh Christian	Tulsa
19. Jason Washington	WR	6-1/190	El Cerrito, Calf./El Cerrito	Fresno State
20. Jared Flint	QB	6-6/205	Irvine, Calif./Orange Coast College	Hawaii
21. Reuben Randle	WR	6-5/200	Wortham, Texas/Wortham	TCU
22. Derron Brown	RB/CB	5-10/195	Angleton, Texas/Angleton	SMU
23. Ray Mietkiewicz	RB	6-1/240	Huntington Beach, Calif./Marina	UTEP
24. Rob Frederick	OL	6-4/320	Alverton, Pa./Southmoreland	Tulsa
25. Uriah Moenoa	OL	6-3/330	Honolulu, Hawaii/Iolani	Hawaii
26. Kenny Boyd	RB	6-2/190	Omaha, Texas/Pewitt	TCU
27. Allan Adami	DE	6-4/225	Corpus Christi, Texas/Calallen	SMU
28. Jamal Jones	LB	6-0/220	Oakland, Calif./Skyline	Fresno State
29. Matt Manuma	QB	6-2/195	Honolulu, Hawaii/Radford	Hawaii
30. Lenny McCormick	WR	6-0/170	Clovis, Calif./Clovis	Fresno State
31. John James	RB	5-10/190	Oklahoma City, Okla./Putnam City North	UTEP
32. Matt Black	OL	6-2/285	Claremore, Okla./Claremore	Tulsa
33. Houston Ala	DL	6-2/220	Waianae, Hawaii/Kamehameha	Hawaii
34. Rashaad Murry	RB	5-8/195	Los Angeles, Calif./Jordan	San Jose State
35. Derek Kennard Jr.	DT	6-1/235	Phoenix, Ariz./Desert Vista	Nevada
36. Robert Clayton	OL	6-3/290	Southlake, Texas/Carroll	UTEP
37. Charles Pauley	WR	5-9/150	Duarte, Calif./Citrus (Calif.) College	San Jose State
38. James Kilian	QB	6-3/200	Medford, Okla./Medford	Tulsa
39. Micah Meador	OL	6-3/295	Humble, Texas/Humble	Rice
40. John Tennert	OL	6-3/288	Boise, Idaho/Eagle	Nevada

RANKING the CLASSES

1. TCU
2. Fresno State
3. Hawaii
4. Rice
5. Tulsa
6. SMU
7. UTEP
8. San Jose State
9. Nevada

San Jose State, that's cliff diving into shallow water. And finishing with WAC heavyweights Hawaii, TCU and Fresno State in three of the last four weeks won't be easy.

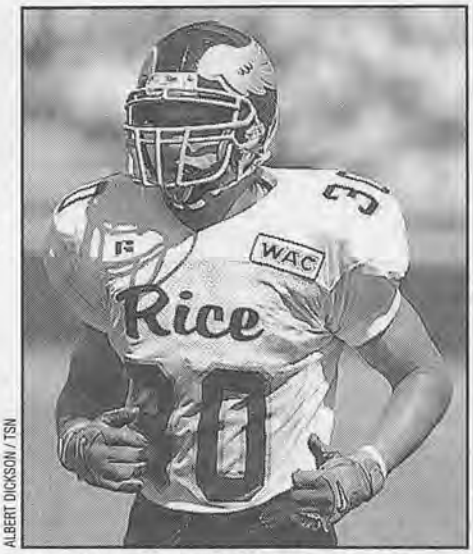
Best matchup: Fresno State at TCU, November 11. The Bulldogs rallied to beat TCU at home in overtime early last season. With this matchup coming later in the year, both teams should be at their best in a game that should decide the league title.

Ugliest matchup: San Jose State at Nebraska, September 2. The Spartans gave up 243 yards a game rushing last season in a conference in which only two teams averaged more than 175 a game. If the Huskers don't let up, figure on the Big Red rolling up 400-500 yards and 50-plus points.

Upset of the year: Oklahoma State at Tulsa, September 9. Factoring in last season's 46-9 rout and the game being their opener, the Cowboys can very easily look past their in-state foe. Add a pumped-up squad with a game under its belt and eager to impress the Hurricane faithful in Burns' first home game, and it has all the ingredients of an upset.

Bowl bound: TCU, Fresno State, UTEP and Hawaii. The WAC could wind up with five bowl-eligible teams, but only four will find postseason berths. Regardless of who wins the league, if TCU and Fresno State both finish in the top two, the Frogs are headed to the Mobile Alabama Bowl for the second straight year and the Bulldogs will play in the Silicon Bowl. UTEP could find a spot in the Humanitarian Bowl, and Hawaii looks to stay on the island in the Oahu Bowl. Figure on Rice getting the shaft if bowl-eligible.

Biggest shoes to fill: Fresno State QB Billy Volek's. David Carr takes the reigns from first-team all-WAC pick Volek, who passed for 30 touchdowns and led the Dogs to the co-title. A backup to Volek two seasons ago, Carr took a redshirt last season to keep two years of eligibility. He's got size, a strong arm and a talented supporting cast.



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

THAT'S LIFE (IN THE WAC): *Figure on Rice and Dan Dawson to get the shaft at bowl-selection time.*

Most overrated player: Rice SS Travis Ortega. Outside of making big hits, he makes few plays in pass defense. Has only one career interception, no sacks and his tackle total was down last year.

Most underrated player: Tim Skipper, LB, Fresno State. Probably the smallest middle linebacker in the country (5-7, 200), Skipper impacts games with incredible instincts and closing speed around the ball.

Best coach: Dennis Franchione, TCU. He took a 1-10 team the year before he arrived and turned it into a back-to-back bowl winner. With the Frogs positioned for a conference title and top-20 finish, Franchione figures to be a leading candidate for big-time job openings after the season.

Best staff: TCU and Fresno State. Both staffs mesh well with the philosophies of their head coaches and offer a mix of pro experience and strong recruiting skills. TCU defensive coordinator Gary Patterson and Fresno State offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig are stars on the rise.

Coach on the hot seat: Mike Cavan, SMU. After posting a winning season in his first year in Dallas, the Ponies have limped through consecutive losing years. Neighboring rival TCU is winning the area recruiting wars and with a new stadium coming on board this season, Cavan needs to bring back the fans and win now.

Best bets: TCU tailback LaDainian Tomlinson will be invited to the Heisman Trophy announcement in New York . . . After going undefeated on the road last year, Hawaii will lose at least twice off the island . . . Fresno State's Rodney Wright will lead the league in receiving yards.

Odds and ends: Tulsa has installed a new rubber-and-sand type surface called Fieldturf at Skelly Stadium ... Future WAC member Louisiana Tech plays Hawaii and Tulsa this season ... As part of TCU's Heisman campaign, Tomlinson has his own website, www.ltfor2000.com ... Tomlinson should be licking his chops. Seven of TCU's 11 opponents finished 91st or worse in rush defense last season ... UTEP regained the attendance record in its own stadium last season when 52,247 showed up for a showdown with rival New Mexico State. Before that, the largest crowd ever in the Sun Bowl was 51,126 for a Dallas Cowboys-Houston Oilers exhibition in 1996 ... Of the 15 seniors on the *Honolulu Advertiser*'s All-State football team, Hawaii signed 11 . . . In March, new Tulsa coach Keith Burns had his team take part in the school's sendoff for the basketball team, which was headed to Austin for the NCAA Regionals: "I wanted to fellas to see the things that come with winning—large crowds to send you off, media and radio, nice buses, police escorts," he said.

WAC **IN A NUTSHELL**

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. TCU	Passing game needs to become more potent. Line needs to fortify after several departures.	RB LaDainian Tomlinson T David Bobo	E Aaron Schobel FS Curtis Fuller	Sept. 16 vs. Northwestern Nov. 11 vs. Fresno State
2. Fresno State	Needs to develop a quarterback. Strong front seven must shut down the run.	WR Rodney Wright WR Charles Smith	T Alan Harper LB Tim Skipper	Sept. 23 vs. California Nov. 11 at TCU
3. Hawaii	New QB will work behind rehabbed line. Looking for playmakers at linebacker.	WR Craig Stutzmann RB Avion Weaver	CB Shawndel Tucker E Joe Correia	Nov. 25 vs. Wisconsin Oct. 7 at TCU
4. UTEP	Looking for a go-to running back. Rebuilt line can't get run over.	TE Brian Natkin C Carey Clayton	CB Crance Clemons LB Derek Walker	Sept. 16 at Texas A&M Sept. 9 vs. SMU
5. SMU	Experienced linemen have to stay healthy. Must again show ability to stop the run.	TE Michael Brown RB Kris Briggs	E Markus Pratt LB Vic Viloria	Sept. 2 vs. Kansas Nov. 25 vs. TCU
6. Tulsa	Depth on line and at receiver is shaky. Deep unit must play tough vs. the run.	QB Josh Blankenship C Steve Schiller	LB Ashon Farley LB Chris Miller	Sept. 9 vs. Oklahoma State Oct. 7 vs. UTEP
7. Rice	Must sort out quarterback situation. Veteran line must set the tone.	RB Leroy Bradley T Rod Beavan	P Travis Hale LB Dan Dawson	Sept. 2 vs. Houston Oct. 7 vs. Fresno State
8. San Jose State	Experience on line, at running back must pay off. Players must adapt to a new system.	RB Deonce Whitaker T Chris Fe'esago	LB Josh Parry LB Marshall Blount	Sept. 9 at Stanford Nov. 18 at Tulsa
9. Nevada	Neill has to have a big year. Youngsters must mature quickly.	QB David Neill T Clark Roosendaal	LB Josh Smith E Horatio Leyva	Oct. 21 vs. San Jose State Sept. 30 vs. Colorado State

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Players of the Year

TEXAS CHRISTIAN

OFFENSE

LaDainian Tomlinson, RB, TCU

One hundred yards rushing a game? Forget it. One fifty? Still not good enough. Two hundred? That, TCU running back LaDainian Tomlinson says, is what he needs to average if the defending NCAA rushing champion is going to make a serious run at the 2000 Heisman Trophy.

"That's the kind of game that people expect from me now and I expect it from myself," Tomlinson says. "I expect nothing less than 200 yards—that's the goal I'm setting for myself for every game. Anything less will be disappointing."

Tomlinson didn't disappoint much last season, setting a school mark with 1,850 yards rushing. Tomlinson also splashed his name across the nation with a Division I-A single-game record of 406 yards rushing against UTEP. Throw in a 300-yard game, a 269-yarder and 18 touchdowns, and you have the makings of a big season.

Even with the occasional attention, Tomlinson doesn't own the national profile of Purdue's Drew Brees or Virginia Tech's Michael Vick. Asked at an awards dinner his thoughts on Tomlinson's 406-yard day, Dayne said he knew Tomlinson was a good back but hadn't heard about the record. So, the 5-11, 217-pound senior concedes that being at TCU isn't going to help his Heisman campaign. And he knows the Horned Frogs can't repeat their 1-3 start of a year ago.

"Being in the WAC and (considering) our strength of schedule, I'll definitely have to have 2,000 yards rushing to be a finalist to go to New York," Tomlinson says. "I look back at Ron Dayne last season and he had a lot of 100-yard, 125-yard games ... I don't think it'll work for me." *—Arthur Garcia*

TEXAS CHRISTIAN

DEFENSE

Aaron Schobel, E, TCU

Maybe it has something to do with being a senior. Maybe it's the sense of urgency with this season being a golden chance for TCU to strut its stuff on a national stage. Maybe it's the opportunity to go out with a record-breaking legacy intact.

Whatever it is, it's led to a slight personality change in Aaron Schobel. "He's never been outspoken, but he's done more this offseason verbally with other players than any other time," TCU coach Dennis Franchione says.

Make no mistake, Schobel hasn't turned into Shannon Sharpe.

"I've made comments that I wouldn't have made in the past," Schobel says. "I'm trying to help because there's a bunch of new guys on the line with me and (tackle) Shawn (Worthen)."

Schobel, the Horned Frogs' all-time leader in sacks with 24½, anchors a TCU defense that finished fifth nationally last season (284.5 yards per game). Schobel (6-4, 244) totaled 70 tackles—19 for loss—and his 10 sacks established the school's single-season record.

Depending on down and situation, Schobel will line up at different spots along the line. The Frogs' defense, which tied a school record with 37 sacks last year, became even stingier as the 1999 season progressed. Over the final five games, foes managed only 135 yards rushing on 142 attempts (0.95 yards per carry).

"Our defense should be faster this year," says Schobel, who has a brother (Matt) and a cousin (Bo) as teammates." At the beginning of the season, we might struggle a little, especially up front, but by the middle of the season, we should be dominant." *—Arthur Garcia*

Western Athletic

1999 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU, Jr.	**11**	**268**	**1,850**	**6.9**	**18**	**168.2**
2. Paul Smith, UTEP, Sr.	12	272	1,258	4.6	12	104.8
3. Deonce Whitaker, San Jose State, Jr.	**9**	**137**	**769**	**5.6**	**10**	**85.4**
4. John Mosley, Tulsa, Sr.	11	160	873	5.5	5	79.4
5. Chad Richardson, Rice, Sr.	11	203	831	4.1	11	75.6
6. Darrick Ward, Fresno State, Fr.	**12**	**132**	**824**	**6.2**	**6**	**68.7**
7. Paris Gaines, Fresno State, So.	**12**	**143**	**662**	**4.6**	**3**	**55.2**
8. Avion Weaver, Hawaii, Jr.	**12**	**114**	**645**	**5.7**	**4**	**53.8**
9. Kris Briggs, SMU, Fr.	**10**	**102**	**522**	**5.1**	**6**	**52.2**
10. Rodnick Phillips, SMU, Sr.	10	150	503	3.4	3	50.3

Passing

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Billy Volek, Fresno State, Sr.	12	355	235	.662	3	2,559	7.2	30	152.9
2. Jay Stuckey, UTEP, Sr.	12	225	145	.644	13	1,918	8.5	15	146.5
3. Casey Printers, TCU, Fr.	**10**	**150**	**86**	**.573**	**7**	**1,213**	**8.1**	**8**	**133.5**
4. Dan Robinson, Hawaii, Sr.	12	556	288	.518	18	3,853	6.9	28	120.2
5. Rocky Perez, UTEP, Jr.	**12**	**176**	**100**	**.568**	**4**	**1,198**	**6.8**	**4**	**116.9**
6. Patrick Batteaux, TCU, Sr.	10	52	27	.519	0	243	4.7	4	116.6
7. Chris Kasteler, San Jose St., Sr.	10	350	193	.551	15	2,239	6.4	13	112.6
8. Chad Richardson, Rice, Sr.	11	86	36	.419	5	563	6.6	7	112.1
9. Josh McCown, SMU, So.	**10**	**234**	**125**	**.534**	**10**	**1,434**	**6.1**	**11**	**111.9**
10. Josh Blankenship, Tulsa, Fr.	**10**	**235**	**119**	**.506**	**15**	**1,416**	**6.0**	**7**	**98.3**

Receiving

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Dwight Carter, Hawaii, Sr.	12	77	1,253	9	6.4	16.3
2. Damon Savage, Tulsa, Sr.	11	67	752	4	6.1	11.2
3. Rodney Wright, Fresno State, So.	**12**	**68**	**1,007**	**7**	**5.7**	**14.8**
4. Craig Stutzmann, Hawaii, So.	**12**	**63**	**658**	**8**	**5.3**	**10.4**
5. Steven Pulley, San Jose State, Sr.	10	51	728	5	5.1	14.3
6. Lee Mays, UTEP, So.	**12**	**60**	**881**	**9**	**5.0**	**14.7**
7. Brian Natkin, UTEP, Jr.	**12**	**59**	**648**	**4**	**4.9**	**10.9**
8. Channon Harris, Hawaii, So.	**12**	**56**	**860**	**6**	**4.7**	**15.4**
9. Charles Smith, Fresno State, So.	**12**	**52**	**600**	**7**	**4.3**	**11.5**
10. Jerrold Smith, Tulsa, Sr.	11	46	473	2	4.2	10.3

1999 TEAM STATS Offense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Rice (7)	257.7
2. TCU (9)	240.0
3. Fresno State (34)	172.5
4. UTEP (77)	131.7
5. San Jose State (86)	119.4
6. SMU (87)	118.9
7. Tulsa (89)	114.4
8. Hawaii (106)	89.0

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Hawaii (3)	328.7
2. UTEP (21)	262.3
3. San Jose State (30)	249.0
4. Fresno State (50)	219.3
5. Tulsa (66)	203.2
6. SMU (81)	179.2
7. TCU (105)	135.5
8. Rice (114)	54.7

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Hawaii (20)	417.7
2. UTEP (43)	393.9
3. Fresno State (45)	391.8
4. TCU (53)	375.5
5. San Jose State (65)	368.4
6. Tulsa (89)	317.6
7. Rice (93)	312.5
8. SMU (99)	298.1

Defense

Rushing

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. TCU (13)	100.9
2. SMU (24)	113.9
3. Rice (36)	124.8
4. Fresno State (40)	126.6
5. Hawaii (91)	186.6
6. Tulsa (93)	188.5
7. UTEP (100)	208.2
8. San Jose State (112)	243.4

Passing

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. TCU (33)	112.3
2. Hawaii (53)	117.1
3. UTEP (54)	117.4
4. Fresno State (59)	121.0
5. Rice (72)	124.9
6. SMU (92)	133.4
7. Tulsa (109)	145.3
8. San Jose State (110)	145.30

Total

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. TCU (5)	284.5
2. Rice (36)	338.6
3. SMU (53)	361.1
4. Hawaii (68)	376.8
5. Fresno State (72)	381.9
6. UTEP (86)	391.0
7. Tulsa (99)	413.4
8. San Jose State (113)	478.6

1 Texas Christian

NATIONAL RANK 18

Coach: Dennis Franchione (15-9, 2 years; 128-64-2 overall, 17 years)
Offensive coordinator: Les Koenning (1st season) and Mike Schultz (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Gary Patterson (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-2
Starters lost: 4
Lettermen lost: 12
Lettermen returning: 41
Site: Fort Worth, Texas
Stadium: Amon G. Carter (grass, 44,008)
Last league title won: 1999 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1999 TSN rank: 32
1999 record: 8-4 (beat East Carolina in Mobile Alabama Bowl). WAC: 5-2/T1st

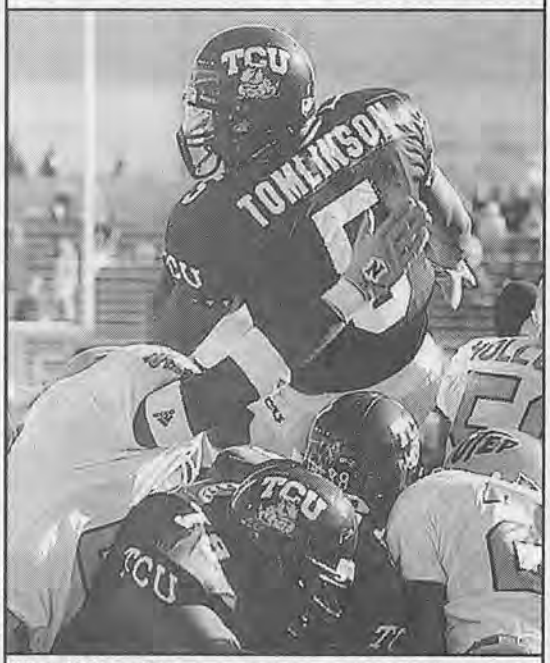
1999 Results

Arizona, L, 35-31
at Northwestern, L, 17-7
at Arkansas St., W, 24-21
at Fresno St., L, 26-19 OT
San Jose State, W, 42-0
Tulsa, W, 56-17
at Rice, L, 42-21
at Hawaii, W, 34-14
North Texas, W, 27-3
UTEP, W, 52-24
SMU, W, 21-0
East Carolina, W, 28-14

Schedule

S9—at Nevada
S16—Northwestern
S23—Arkansas State
S30—at Navy
O7—Hawaii
O21—at Tulsa
O28—Rice
N4—at San Jose State
N11—Fresno State
N18—UTEP
N25—at SMU

Offensive philosophy: The Horned Frogs employ multiple sets, everything from a spread formation to an option attack. Though the quarterback is asked to do a lot in this system, he still has to get the ball into TB LaDainian Tomlinson's hands 30 times a game.
Offensive stars: The offense starts with Tomlinson, the Heisman Trophy and Doak Walker candidate, who is capable of a 2,000-yard season. The nation's leading rusher in '99, Tomlinson has darting speed and tackle-breaking ability. QB Casey Printers, 6-2 with a strong arm, is assuming full control of the offense after sharing time last season as a true freshman. He already has big-game experience, so he won't be rattled easily. Printers and Tomlinson have the luxury of an experienced line anchored by G Jeff Millican and T David Bobo. WR LaTarence Dunbar, a track standout, gives Printers a serious deep threat, and WR Tim Maiden made strides last season. TE B.J. Roberts is an excellent blocker with decent hands.
Offensive concerns: Tomlinson's quest for end-of-the-year hardware could have the team playing for his stats, disrupting the offense's flow. Opponents are going to key on Tomlinson., so Printers will have to step up and make plays to keep defenses honest.
Defensive philosophy: The Horned Frogs expect a big push from the line—it's the catalyst of the entire defense. The line stuffs the run and gets to the quarterback, making everyone else's job easier. The defense starts two linebackers and five backs, a scheme that calls on the safeties to make plays.
Defensive stars: DE Aaron Schobel sets the table with his relentless pursuit. Already TCU's all-time sack leader, Schobel has great instincts and better-than-average speed. DT Shawn Worthen also gets into the backfield and is tough to move. LB Shannon Brazzell, who led the team in tackles in '99, will blitz on occasion and creates turnovers. LB Chad Bayer also has a knack for coming up with the ball. FS Curtis Fuller, the quarterback of the defense, and SS Russell Gary are technically sound. Because of their support on deep throws, the Frogs rarely give up big plays.
Defensive concerns: Two holes on the line must be filled and a new weak safety must be found, but the players battling for those spots are experienced. In two of TCU's four losses last season, the defense surrendered a fourth-quarter lead.
Special teams: The Frogs have to find a replacement for do-everything Royce Huffman, who doubled as a punter and punt returner. FS LaVar Veale has returned punts in the past, making that spot more secure, but P Joey Biasatti is untested. K Chris Kaylakie has a decent leg, but his field-goal accuracy slumped late last season after a strong start.
Head coach: Dennis Franchione is fast becoming a hot commodity after leading a team that won one game the year before he arrived to bowl wins in each of his first two seasons. With another strong season or two, he could be off to a premier program. An offensive coach at heart, Franchione has done a marvelous job of assembling a staff that has produced a dominating defense. A disciplinarian who is still a players' coach, he has won over recruits in talent-rich Dallas-Fort Worth and spearheaded several facility improvements.
Schedule: The Frogs open the season on the road against new WAC member Nevada, which has a new coach and will have played a game by then. The toughest non-conference game is Navy on the road. WAC title contenders Hawaii and Fresno State both travel to Fort Worth.
Bottom line: The Horned Frogs should be the overwhelming league favorite, and nine or 10 wins are possible if both sides of the ball perform as expected. A pitfall could be Tomlinson's Heisman campaign, which would fall flat if he or the team gets off to a slow start. Otherwise, all the pieces are there for a team that could move deep into the Top 25.



TEXAS CHRISTIAN

Where'd he go? *TCU returns 10 starters on offense, but the biggest is Tomlinson, who will be a marked man in every game this season.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Tim Maiden**	**6-0**	**193**	**Sr.**	Ahmed Kabba	6-2	195	Jr.
T	**Mike Keathley**	**6-4**	**295**	**Sr.**	*Jock Beddingfield	6-3	289	Fr.
G	**Victor Payne**	**6-1**	**294**	**Jr.**	Shane Ladewig	6-3	282	Sr.
C	**Jeff Garner**	**6-5**	**297**	**Sr.**	Jamal Powell	6-3	306	So.
G	**Jeff Millican**	**6-6**	**296**	**Sr.**	J.T. Aughinbaugh	6-6	301	So.
T	**David Bobo**	**6-5**	**291**	**Sr.**	Brady Barrick	6-5	319	So.
TE	**B.J. Roberts**	**6-3**	**249**	**Jr.**	*Stanley Moss	6-2	240	Fr.
WR	LaTarence Dunbar	5-11	187	So.	Cedric James	6-2	200	Sr.
QB	**Casey Printers**	**6-2**	**196**	**So.**	Sean Stilley	6-5	227	So.
RB	**LaDainian Tomlinson**	**5-11**	**217**	**Sr.**	Andrew Hayes-Stoker	5-8	198	Jr.
FB	**George Layne**	**5-11**	**236**	**Jr.**	Chad Purcell	6-0	230	Sr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Chad McCarty	6-2	247	Jr.	*Bo Schobel	6-5	242	Fr.
T	**Shawn Worthen**	**6-1**	**290**	**Sr.**	*Donald Burrell	6-2	250	Fr.
NT	Stuart Ashley	6-4	270	Sr.	*Chad Pugh	6-4	298	Fr.
E	**Aaron Schobel**	**6-4**	**244**	**Sr.**	Joe Hill	6-3	236	Jr.
LB	**Shannon Brazzell**	**5-11**	**228**	**Sr.**	Terrance Maiden	6-1	220	Sr.
LB	**Chad Bayer**	**5-11**	**222**	**Jr.**	Adrian Lewis	6-2	222	Jr.
CB	**Jason Goss**	**5-10**	**183**	**So.**	*Tyrone Sanders	5-11	160	Fr.
SS	**Russell Gary**	**5-10**	**198**	**Sr.**	Cody Slinkard	5-11	209	Sr.
FS	**Curtis Fuller**	**5-10**	**191**	**Sr.**	Kenneth Hilliard	6-1	198	So.
S	Charlie Owens	6-0	190	Jr.	LaVar Veale	5-10	189	Sr.
CB	**Greg Walls**	**6-1**	**184**	**Sr.**	Bo Springfield	5-10	182	So.

Special Teams

K	**Chris Kaylakie**	**6-0**	**192**	**Sr.**	P	Joey Biasatti	5-11	190	So.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

2 Fresno State

NATIONAL RANK 40

Coach: Pat Hill (19-17, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Andy Ludwig (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Kevin Coyle (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 14
Lettermen returning: 38
Site: Fresno, Calif.
Stadium: Bulldog (grass, 41,031)
Last league title won: 1999 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 63
1999 record: 8-5 (lost to Utah in Las Vegas Bowl). WAC: 5-2/T1st

1999 Results

Portland State, W, 34-6
at Oregon State, L, 46-23
at UCLA, L, 35-21
at Nevada, W, 49-24
TCU, W, 26-19 (OT)
Colorado State, W, 44-13
at SMU, L, 24-14
UTEP, W, 24-23 (OT)
at Tulsa, W, 28-14
Rice, W, 47-18
at Hawaii, L, 31-24 (2 OT)
San Jose State, W, 63-12
Utah, L, 17-16

Schedule

S2—at Ohio State
S9—at UCLA
S23—California
O7—at Rice
O14—Nevada
O21—at UTEP
O28—Tulsa
N4—Hawaii
N11—at TCU
N18—SMU
N25—at San Jose State

Offensive philosophy: Fresno State is equally adept at running or passing the football. That balance has produced a 1,000-yard receiver or 1,000-yard running back in each of the past eight seasons. The Bulldogs' two-back, two-receiver set excels on third down and in the red zone.

Offensive stars: QB David Carr takes over after redshirting last season. Carr, a junior, and Billy Volek shared time two years ago, but the choice was to go with Volek last season, so coaches thought it best to redshirt Carr, leaving him with two seasons of eligibility. Carr is 6-3 and has a stronger arm than Volek, which should give the 'Dogs more of a deep passing threat. Running under those bombs will be WRs Rodney Wright and Charles Smith, speedsters who combined for more 1,700 yards and 14 touchdowns last year. C Rodney Michael, RT Kevin Jordan and RG Mike Stovall return from a line that kept opponents out of the backfield last season.

Offensive concerns: Carr spent last season soaking up information, sitting in the press box and working with coordinator Andy Ludwig during games and directing the scout team in practice. Will he be rusty—or better equipped—after the year off? The running back situation is clouded with workhorse Paris Gaines recovering from a knee injury and the dismissal of Derrick Ward, an electrifying freshman in 1999 who was let go before spring practice. Gaines' recovery is essential because the other backs have little experience.

Defensive philosophy: The Bulldogs focus on forcing turnovers. Though they bend, they pride themselves on shutting down teams in crunch time.

Defensive stars: Despite being only 5-7, MLB Tim Skipper comes up big all over the field. He gets to the quarterback, brings down backs behind the line and makes plays in pass defense. OLBs Orlando Huff and Giachino Chiaramonte have good range and speed. Three starters are back on the line—DT Alan Harper, DE Justin Johnson and NT Thabiti Lockhart—giving Fresno State a good mix of size, strength and speed. Anthony Limbrick and Vernon Fox form possibly the best safety combo in the league.

Defensive concerns: Nine starters are back, with Skipper and Harper legitimate WAC player of the year candidates, but the defense struggled at times last season. Opponents had success through the air and routinely won the time of possession battle. There are no clear-cut starters at either cornerback spot.

Special teams: A new kicker and punter must be found. Walk-on David Beeman is the odds-on favorite to handle kicking duties, and the punting chores will be decided between Jesse Harmon and Jason Simpson. Smith will handle the punt return duties, and Wright will get the majority of the kickoff returns. The Bulldogs blocked nine kicks last season—five field goals, three punts and one extra point—and held opponents to a 3.4-yard average on punt returns.

Head coach: In three years, Pat Hill has brought back the excitement missing since legendary coach Jim Sweeney retired in 1996. Last season, Hill led the Bulldogs to their first winning season in five years and first bowl since '93. Under his leadership, Fresno State has dramatically improved its training and practice facilities, and recruits in talent-rich California have noticed. Hill, who has talked about expanding Bulldog Stadium to 65,000-plus, seems poised for a long reign in Fresno.

FRESNO STATE

Death, taxes, and ... *Expect to see Wright, an All-WAC first-team selection last year, with the ball in his hands often this season.*

Schedule: With road games against Ohio State and UCLA to open the season, a slow start is possible. Should they start 0-2, the Bulldogs certainly will need every day in the subsequent two-week break to recover before the home opener against California. They also will play fellow WAC favorites Hawaii and TCU on back-to-back Saturdays in early November.

Bottom line: If Carr and Gaines play as well as expected and the defense jells, the Bulldogs could be celebrating another WAC title.

DEPTH CHART

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Charles Smith**	**5-9**	**175**	**Jr.**	Marque Davis	6-0	190	So.
T	Joe Schey	6-6	305	So.	*Justin Brown	6-6	295	Fr.
G	Ahmad Bhatti	6-3	308	Sr.	DeJon Kelly	6-1	295	So.
C	**Rodney Michael**	**6-4**	**295**	**So.**	**Mike Stovall**	**6-2**	**285**	**Jr.**
G	**Mike Stovall**	**6-2**	**285**	**Jr.**	Russell Harding	6-2	295	So.
T	**Kevin Jordan**	**6-5**	**305**	**Sr.**	*Mike Painchaud	6-5	290	Fr.
TE	Billy Jack Pierce	6-1	245	Jr.	Jessie Watson	6-2	280	Jr.
WR	**Rodney Wright**	**5-9**	**175**	**Jr.**	Bernard Berrian	6-1	190	So.
QB	David Carr	6-3	220	Jr.	Jeff Grady	6-2	195	So.
RB	**Paris Gaines**	**6-1**	**220**	**Jr.**	James Tillman	5-11	205	So.
FB	Akka-Ar Moses	5-11	235	Sr.	*Del Hawkins	5-10	250	Fr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Justin Johnson**	**6-3**	**220**	**Sr.**	*Brian Morris	6-2	250	Fr.
T	**Alan Harper**	**6-2**	**275**	**Jr.**	Jason Stewart	6-1	275	So.
NT	**Thabiti Lockhart**	**6-3**	**280**	**Sr.**	Grant Harrington	5-11	260	Jr.
E	Jake Probst	6-2	250	Jr.	Jason Stewart	6-1	275	So.
OLB	**Orlando Huff**	**6-3**	**230**	**Sr.**	Tyrell Grayson	6-1	220	Sr.
MLB	**Tim Skipper**	**5-7**	**200**	**Sr.**	Maurice Rodriguez	6-2	240	Jr.
OLB	**G. Chiaramonte**	**6-0**	**250**	**Sr.**	Sam Williams	6-5	225	So.
CB	Marcellus Armstrong	5-7	190	So.	**Dante Marsh**	**5-10**	**190**	**Sr.**
SS	**Vernon Fox**	**5-10**	**200**	**Jr.**	*Bryce McGill	5-11	195	Fr.
FS	**Anthony Limbrick**	**6-1**	**205**	**Sr.**	Terence Brown	6-2	205	Sr.
CB	Tierre Sams	5-9	175	Jr.	Lawrence Deck	5-10	190	Sr.

Special Teams

K	David Mendez	6-1	180	Fr.	P	*Jesse Harmon	6-0	205	Fr.

More on Fresno State at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/fresnostate/ AOL keyword: TSN

3 Hawaii

NATIONAL RANK 55

Coach: June Jones (9-4, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: June Jones (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Kevin Lempa (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Run and shoot
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 49
Site: Honolulu
Stadium: Aloha (turf, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1999 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 31
1999 record: 9-4 (beat Oregon State in Oahu Bowl). WAC: 5-2/T1st

1999 Results

USC, L, 62-7
Eastern Illinois, W, 31-27
Boise State, W, 34-19
at SMU, W, 20-0
UTEP, W, 33-3
Rice, L, 38-19
at Tulsa, W, 35-21
TCU, L, 34-14
at San Jose St., W, 62-41
Fresno State, W, 31-24
Navy, W, 48-41
Washington St., L, 22-14
Oregon State, W, 23-17

Schedule

S9—Portland State
S23—at UTEP
S30—Tulsa
O7—at TCU
O14—SMU
O21—at Rice
O28—San Jose State
N4—at Fresno State
N11—Nevada
N18—Louisiana Tech
N25—Wisconsin
D2—vs. UNLV

Offensive philosophy: June Jones' run-and-shoot was scoffed at in the NFL, but it thrived last year at Hawaii. The Warriors threw the ball nearly 50 times a game, spreading it among the receivers and backs (there is no tight end in the offense).

Offensive stars: The strength lies with those who catch the ball, and three of last season's top four receivers are back in Craig Stutzmann, Channon Harris and Ashley Lelie. Harris is a flyer, Lelie a big target and Stutzmann the possession guy. The question is who's going to be throwing to them with the departure of Dan Robinson, Hawaii's all-time leading passer. The four battling for the job are junior college transfers Jared Flint and Nick Rolovich, and holdovers Mike Harrison and Shawn Withy-Allen. RBs Avion Weaver and Afatia Thompson provide a good change of pace. Weaver was a bit more productive on the ground, and Thompson caught a few more passes. The line must be rebuilt around G Manly Kanoa, the only returning starter there.

Offensive concerns: With so much emphasis on the quarterback in Jones' system, the offense will struggle greatly if a suitable quarterback isn't found. Harrison is the only one who has played in Division I, and he's thrown only 20 passes. The Warriors' line was the WAC's best last season, with two members earning first-team all-league honors and two others honorable mention. Those four are gone, and outside of Kanoa, there isn't much experience up front.

Defensive philosophy: Jones went with a familiar face when filling the vacant coordinator position, hiring Kevin Lempa away from the San Diego Chargers. Jones and Lempa worked together there, and Jones had tried to hire him last year. The Warriors' 4-3 blitz-happy scheme remains, but Lempa will tweak it some by moving a safety up some to form an eight-man box.

Defensive stars: LT Lui Fuga and LE Joe Correia head up the deepest area of the team. The tackles specialize in filling gaps, leaving the ends and linebackers free to make plays. Robert Kemfort is the only returning starting linebacker, though MLB Joaquin Avila and OLB Anthony Smith played a lot last season. Coaches also are high on OLB Keani Alapa. FS Nate Jackson and SS Dee Miller are vital in run support and pass coverage. CB Shawndel Tucker often will line up against the best receiver, with Feiamma Armstrong being the leading candidate to man the other side.

Defensive concerns: Outside of filling holes, the Warriors must upgrade their rush defense dramatically. Opponents averaged 186.6 yards a game last year. If Miller and Jackson end up playing a fourth linebacker position, pass coverage could be compromised.

Special teams: Eric Hannum and Jake Huggins are battling for the kicking and punting jobs, and Jamal Garland is set to handle kickoff and punt return duties.

Head coach: Jones caught the football world's attention by injecting life into a dormant program. Winless in '98, the Warriors were 9-4 last year and won the Oahu Bowl. He didn't win any friends in coaching ranks this offseason by calling out Texas—which pulled out of a game at Hawaii this year—but his brashness has won over recruits and fans. Working under a seven-year contract, Jones is on his way to building a power in the ever-changing WAC.

HAWAII

Alternative: *Thompson's running skills will help provide a change of pace to a Hawaii offense that relies heavily on the pass.*

Schedule: Eight home games are an overwhelming advantage, though the Warriors were only 5-4 on the island during the regular season last year. (Hawaii also won its bowl at home.) The WAC schedule is done by November 11, with three non-conference games finishing up the season. Of its four road games, two are against WAC favorites TCU and Fresno State.

Bottom line: With only one non-league game before the start of conference play, the Warriors can't afford to wait for the new quarterback to develop. A strong showing in the season-ending stretch of four games should keep the Warriors at home ... and bowling for a second season in a row.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Justin Colbert	5-7	153	So.	Jamal Garland	5-9	172	Jr.
T	Chris Hogge	6-3	283	So.	Chris Pinkney	6-2	255	So.
G	**Manly Kanoa**	**6-5**	**301**	**So.**	Doug Gosling	6-2	307	Jr.
C	Brian Smith	6-0	282	So.	Lui Fuata	6-2	306	So.
G	Vince Manuwai	6-2	249	So.	*Shayne Kajioka	6-3	376	Fr.
T	Kynan Forney	6-3	284	Sr.	*Brian Tomihama	6-4	238	Fr.
WR	**Craig Stutzmann**	**5-11**	**187**	**Jr.**	Davey deLaura	5-9	184	Sr.
WR	**Channon Harris**	**5-8**	**152**	**Jr.**	Ricky Lumford	5-7	176	Sr.
QB	Mike Harrison	6-1	206	So.	Jared Flint	6-5	209	Jr.
RB	**Afatia Thompson**	**5-10**	**214**	**So.**	Avion Weaver	5-10	220	Sr.
WR	**Ashley Lelie**	**6-3**	**170**	**Fr.**	*Sean Butts	6-4	184	Fr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Chris Brown**	**6-0**	**236**	**Fr.**	Laanui Correa	6-3	248	So.
T	**Lui Fuga**	**6-2**	**326**	**So.**	Doug Sims	6-2	357	Sr.
T	**Mike Iosua**	**6-3**	**279**	**So.**	Miles Garner	6-2	300	Sr.
E	**Joe Correia**	**6-2**	**260**	**Jr.**	*Kevin Jackson	6-3	213	Fr.
OLB	**Robert Kemfort**	**6-2**	**200**	**Jr.**	Bo Espinoza	6-1	198	So.
MLB	Joaquin Avila	6-2	222	Sr.	Bobby Morgan	6-1	224	Jr.
OLB	Anthony Smith	6-2	209	Jr.	*Keani Alapa	6-0	207	Fr.
CB	Feiamma Armstrong	5-7	165	Sr.	*Hyrum Peters	5-8	174	Fr.
SS	**Dee Miller**	**6-1**	**195**	**Sr.**	Jacob Espiau	5-10	187	So.
FS	**Nate Jackson**	**5-10**	**151**	**So.**	Tavis Campbell	5-11	199	Sr.
CB	**Shawndel Tucker**	**5-9**	**170**	**Jr.**	**Gary Wright**	**5-9**	**174**	**Fr.**

Special Teams

K	**Eric Hannum**	**6-3**	**181**	**Jr.**	Jake Huggins	5-10	158	Jr.	P	**Jake Huggins**	**5-10**	**158**	**Jr.**	Eric Hannum	6-3	181	Jr.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

4 Texas-El Paso

NATIONAL RANK 69

Coach: Gary Nord (1st season
Offensive coordinator: Patrick Higgins (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Larry Hoefer (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 8-man front
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 41
Site: El Paso, Texas
Stadium: Sun Bowl (turf, 52,000)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1988
1999 TSN rank: 81
1999 record: 5-7. WAC: 3-4/5th

1999 Results

New Mexico, W, 13-10
at Oregon, L, 47-28
at Kansas State, L, 40-7
New Mexico St., W, 54-23
at Hawaii, L, 33-3
SMU, W, 42-28
at Arizona, L, 34-21
at Fresno State, L, 24-23
San Jose State, W, 42-26
Tulsa, L, 43-19
at Rice, W, 30-29
at TCU, L, 52-24

Schedule

S2—at Oklahoma
S9—SMU
S16—at Texas A&M
S23—Hawaii
S30—New Mexico State
O7—at Tulsa
O14—at San Jose State
O21—Fresno State
N4—at Nevada
N11—Rice
N18—at TCU

Offensive philosophy: Gary Nord, the offensive coordinator the past three seasons, moves into the top spot, keeping his system intact. The Miners' pro-style attack spreads the ball around. The Miners have the ability to score quickly—they had 21 touchdown drives of less than three minutes last season—and from anywhere on the field (21 drives of at least 70 yards).

Offensive stars: With the departure of Jay Stuckey, senior QB Rocky Perez is done splitting time. Perez has good touch, avoids turnovers and stays in the pocket. His favorite target is Brian Natkin, a candidate for All-American honors and the top returning tight end in the country in terms of catches and yards. Natkin has size and knows how to get open on third down. WRs Lee Mays and Allan Ray offer a potent 1-2 combination. Mays could make a run at 1,000 yards and a double-digit touchdown total. C Carey Clayton, G Lawrence Norman and G Jeff Seeton anchor one of the WAC's better lines.

Offensive concerns: There are questions at running back after the loss of 1,258-yard man Paul Smith, and that could lead to an increased reliance on the passing game. After sharing time with Stuckey, Perez is the clear-cut starter and has the weight of the offense on his shoulders. Can he handle it? He'll need to keep getting the ball to Natkin, especially on third down, despite the increased attention Natkin will receive.

Defensive philosophy: New coordinator Larry Hoefer, the outside linebackers coach at Texas Tech the past six years, is determined to shore up a porous unit. He has installed an attacking defense that features an eight-man front designed to stop the running game first. It is hoped teams will be dared to throw, giving the Miners' deep secondary the opportunity to make things happen.

Defensive stars: Stalwart DEs Brian Young, the WAC defensive player of the year, and Leif Larson are gone, giving way to Rick Fette, Karmul High and Menson Holloway. Holloway fits the Young mode, strong and fast. The secondary returns nearly intact, led by SS A.J. Sheppard. He forces turnovers in the passing game and is a strong tackler in run support. The linebacking corps got a boost when Derek Walker was moved from free safety. CB Crance Clemons always is around the ball, making picks, forcing fumbles and, on two occasions last season, blocking field-goal attempts. Paul Smith (formerly Paul Edmond) is the leading candidate for the left corner spot vacated by Nick Salinas.

Defensive concerns: Hoefer has his work cut out for him, trying to rebuild a defense that allowed more than 30 points and nearly 400 yards a game last season. Having so many positions to fill may be a blessing in disguise because the new players should be able to pick up his system faster. But the new guys can't allow 5 yards per rush, as the defense did in 1999.

Special teams: K Ricky Bishop, one of the best in the league, is back, as is P Glen Beard. Return duties will be handled by a committee of receivers.

Head coach: Nord, 42, assumed his first head-coaching job after the abrupt retirement of Charlie Bailey. The Miners' offense improved steadily each season under Nord, with last season's unit the school's best in 11 years. He recognized the team's woes on defense and revamped that side of the ball by hiring Hoefer.

UTEP

Safety valve: *When in doubt on third down, the Miners often will dump off the ball to Natkin. He's not a bad option on other downs, either.*

Schedule: A 1-2 start looks probable with road games at Big 12 contenders Oklahoma and Texas A&M. The Miners need to take advantage of a midseason three-game stretch that consists of New Mexico State, Tulsa and San Jose State. WAC hopefuls Fresno State and Hawaii head to El Paso. Like last year, the season finale with TCU could determine whether the team posts its first non-losing campaign since '88.

Bottom line: The offense could be as potent as last year, but defense is the key. The defense can't be much worse than last year's version, which allowed 40 points or more four times.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Allan Ray**	**6-2**	**200**	**Sr.**	Terrance Minor	6-2	170	Jr.
T	**Ariel Famaligi**	**6-2**	**315**	**So.**	*Michael Herd	6-5	250	Fr.
G	**Lawrence Norman**	**6-1**	**295**	**Jr.**	Curtis Castle	6-2	260	So.
C	**Carey Clayton**	**6-4**	**275**	**Sr.**	*Chris Kerr	6-3	235	Fr.
G	**Jeff Seeton**	**6-5**	**290**	**Sr.**	Curtis Castle	6-2	260	So.
T	*Trey Darilek	6-6	270	Fr.	Keith Warren	6-6	270	Jr.
TE	**Brian Natkin**	**6-3**	**245**	**Sr.**	Joey Knapp	6-5	230	Jr.
WR	**Lee Mays**	**6-3**	**190**	**Jr.**	Paul Tessier	5-11	180	Sr.
QB	**Rocky Perez**	**6-0**	**205**	**Sr.**	Wesley Phillips	6-4	205	Jr.
RB	Sherman Austin	5-7	170	So.	Javier Sanchez	5-9	188	Sr.
FB	Chris Porter	6-0	215	Jr.	*Rovann Cleveland	6-0	225	Fr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Rick Fette	6-4	225	So.	Menson Holloway	6-2	270	Sr.
T	Josh Randolph	6-2	245	Jr.	Bobby King	6-3	275	Jr.
T	*Samuel Clarke	6-4	240	Fr.	*Daniel Kerr	6-4	235	Fr.
E	Karmul High	6-4	220	So.	*James Turner	6-1	245	Fr.
OLB	**Derek Walker**	**6-2**	**195**	**Sr.**	Paul Smith	6-2	170	So.
MLB	**Trey Merkens**	**6-1**	**245**	**Sr.**	Bubba Wiseman	6-0	255	So.
OLB	**Camar Jackson**	**6-3**	**230**	**So.**	*Jared White	6-0	225	Fr.
CB	Weldon Cooks	6-3	175	So.	*Jared Robertson	6-0	165	Fr.
SS	**A.J. Sheppard**	**5-10**	**185**	**Sr.**	David Montoya	5-9	170	So.
FS	D.J. Walker	6-3	210	So.	Brian Walker	5-10	180	Jr.
CB	**Crance Clemons**	**5-10**	**160**	**Jr.**	Sam Singleton	5-11	180	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Ricky Bishop**	**5-9**	**170**	**Sr.**	**P**	**Glen Beard**	**6-2**	**230**	**Sr.**

5 SMU

NATIONAL RANK 82

Coach: Mike Cavan (15-18, 3 years; 82-67-2 overall, 14 years)
Offensive coordinator: Larry Kueck (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Eric Schumann (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 44
Site: Dallas
Stadium: Gerald J. Ford (grass, 32,000)
Last league title won: 1984 (SWC)
Last bowl appearance: 1984
1999 TSN rank: 93
1999 record: 4-6. WAC: 3-3/6th

1999 Results

Arkansas, L, 26-0
at Tulane, L, 53-19
Hawaii, L, 20-0
at Kansas, L, 27-9
at UTEP, L, 42-28
Fresno State, W, 24-14
Rice, W, 27-2
CS Northridge, W, 58-16
at Tulsa, W, 28-14
at TCU, L, 21-0

Schedule

S2—Kansas
S9—at UTEP
S16—at NC State
S23—Tulane
S30—at Houston
O7—San Jose State
O14—at Hawaii
O28—Nevada
N4—at Rice
N11—Tulsa
N18—at Fresno State
N25—TCU

Offensive philosophy: After a 10-year absence, Larry Kueck returns to SMU as offensive coordinator, bringing with him a one-back set that has worked successfully at Marshall and Southern Mississippi. On two occasions at Southern Miss, Kueck's spread-the-field system produced a 1,000-yard runner, a 1,000-yard receiver and a 2,000-yard quarterback.

Offensive stars: Junior QB Josh McCown has shown flashes of brilliance in his 15 career starts. But he'll be asked to do more in Kueck's new system, a potential problem since McCown has struggled with accuracy. One big plus is that the team's top two targets from 1999—WRs Chris Cunningham and Cody Cardwell—are back. The speedy duo accounted for more than half the team's receiving yardage and touchdowns as freshmen. TB Kris Briggs moves into the one-back slot after a solid rookie season in which he led the team in rushing and touchdowns. The line returns four starters and rugged TE Michael Brown, who is used mostly for pass protection purposes.

Offensive concerns: Though the Mustangs have numerous returning players, they weren't a strong offensive unit a season ago. McCown needs to become more consistent and take charge. He has capable skill players but has to find a way to get them the ball. SMU started games well in 1999 but couldn't sustain leads. Kueck's system will be put to the test.

Defensive philosophy: It starts with controlling the line and swarming the ball with an attacking group of linebackers. In the Mustangs' aggressive scheme, speed is emphasized over size, and it has worked in forcing turnovers—an average of more than two per game over the last three seasons. Defensive backs are left to fend for themselves in man coverage and are counted on to make plays.

Defensive stars: SMU lost the heart of its defense with the departures of LB Jason Simonton, DE Luke Johnson and DB Tracy Hart. DEs Markus Pratt and Kevin Aldridge, a converted linebacker, have the strength and quickness to get into the backfield. Coaches expect LB Vic Viloria to make 100 tackles, and LBs Billy Jack Williams and Justin Williams are experienced. CB Kevin Garrett, a starter as a freshman, is a big hitter despite his 5-10, 190-pound frame.

Defensive concerns: This isn't a very deep team, and it tends to tire late in games. Outside of Garrett, there are few proven playmakers. The defense won't overpower anyone; it instead relies on speed and technique. Disciplined, ball-control teams have the most success in neutralizing the Mustangs' speed.

Special teams: They should be solid with the return of all of last season's key contributors. Cunningham is a threat on both kickoff and punt returns. P Colin Vadheim has averaged just over 40 yards a punt in his career. K Adam Walterscheid has a cannon for a leg but needs to work on his accuracy.

Head coach: Mike Cavan enters his fourth season in a make-or-break mode. He hired Kueck to spruce up an attack that has been too conservative under his tenure. The Mustangs have played well late each year under Cavan, but poor starts have doomed them to a losing record each season. Cavan hasn't recruited well, and though highly respected, he could be entering his last season in Dallas unless the Mustangs make a run at the WAC title.

VLADIMIR CHERRY / SOUTHERN METHODIST

I'm back: *After starting the final five games as a true freshman in '98, Viloria returns to anchor the defense after sitting out 1999 as a redshirt.*

Schedule: It's not as daunting as last season's, but the Mustangs could easily be 1-4 by the end of September. The Nevada-Rice-Tulsa stretch could spell the difference between a winning or losing season.

Bottom line: The Mustangs are counting on an emotional boost from their move to Ford Stadium, a cozy, on-campus facility. The new offensive system needs to produce more points, and the defense has to find a way to slow opponents late in games. A fourth straight losing season could signal the end of Cavan's reign on the Hilltop.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Chris Cunningham**	**5-7**	**170**	**So.**	*Marcus Carter	6-1	190	Fr.
T	**Jeff Erxleben**	**6-5**	**285**	**Sr.**	*Sterling Harris	6-6	285	Fr.
G	**James McCarthy**	**6-3**	**285**	**Jr.**	Cory Fross	6-4	290	Jr.
C	**Rich Nichols**	**6-3**	**275**	**Sr.**	Jeff Henderson	6-4	250	So.
G	Kevin Gober	6-5	295	Jr.	*Steve Reindl	6-2	260	Fr.
T	**Joey Slaten**	**6-6**	**305**	**Jr.**	Aaron Ladd	6-4	280	Sr.
TE	**Michael Brown**	**6-1**	**250**	**Jr.**	John Hampton	6-2	235	So.
WR	Cody Cardwell	5-9	165	So.	Bryan McDearman	5-11	200	Jr.
QB	**Josh McCown**	**6-4**	**215**	**Jr.**	Kelan Luker	6-0	205	So.
RB	Kris Briggs	5-11	215	So.	Jeff Woods	5-8	195	Sr.
WR	Johnnie Freeman	5-11	190	So.	*Ryan Riddle	6-0	190	Fr.

Defense

Returning starters in bold * *Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Markus Pratt**	**6-0**	**255**	**Jr.**	**Johnson Patman**	**6-2**	**240**	**Jr.**
T	Warrie Birdwell	6-2	250	So.	Thornton Chandler	6-2	255	So.
T	**Lute Croy**	**6-2**	**295**	**So.**	Chris Post	6-3	270	Jr.
E	**Kevin Aldridge**	**6-1**	**250**	**Jr.**	*Trent Hrncir	6-3	225	Fr.
OLB	**B.J. Williams**	**6-2**	**185**	**So.**	Khalid Beard	6-0	200	So.
MLB	Corey Riley	6-0	235	Jr.	Devonric Johnson	5-11	210	So.
OLB	Vic Viloria	5-10	225	So.	Justin Williams	5-11	195	So.
CB	*Jonas Rutledge	5-10	170	Fr.	**James Orr**	**5-10**	**170**	**So.**
SS	**James Orr**	**5-10**	**170**	**So.**	Shane O'Neill	5-9	195	Jr.
FS	*Leroy Price	6-1	190	Fr.	Tommy Dorsey	5-9	195	Jr.
CB	**Kevin Garrett**	**5-10**	**190**	**So.**	Brent Briggs	5-9	160	So.

Special Teams

K	**Adam Walterscheid**	**5-11**	**195**	**Jr.**	**P**	**Colin Vadheim**	**6-1**	**180**	**Sr.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

6 Tulsa

NATIONAL RANK 89

Coach: Keith Burns (1st season)
Offensive coordinator: Jim Gilstrap (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Jeff McInerney (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 39
Site: Tulsa, Okla.
Stadium: Skelly (turf, 40,385)
Last league title won: 1985 (Missouri Valley)
Last bowl appearance: 1991
1999 TSN rank: 107
1999 record: 2-9. WAC: 1-6/8th

1999 Results

SW Missouri St., W, 45-21
at Oklahoma St., L, 46-9
at Texas A&M, L, 62-13
at San Jose St., L, 34-10
Rice, L, 20-10
at TCU, L, 56-17
Hawaii, L, 35-21
Fresno State, L, 28-14
at UTEP, W, 43-19
La.-Monroe, L, 37-34
SMU, L, 28-14

Schedule

S2—at North Carolina
S9—Oklahoma State
S16—at Rice
S23—Louisiana Tech
S30—at Hawaii
O7—UTEP
O14—at New Mexico St.
O21—TCU
O28—at Fresno State
N11—at SMU
N18—San Jose State
N25—Nevada

Offensive philosophy: New coordinator Jim Gilstrap wants to employ a pro scheme that uses multiple formations to try to balance the pass and run.
Offensive stars: QB Josh Blankenship came on after an injury to Michael Wall and directed the offense effectively. Wall is back and capable of regaining the starting job if Blankenship struggles. Blankenship doesn't have the best touch and often holds the ball too long, but he made his share of big plays in '99. WR Corey Brown often was on the receiving end of those big plays, and WR Donald Shoals is sure-handed. The line has a good mix of returning vets (C Steve Schiller, G Steve Wiedower and T Kevin Shaffer) and relative newcomers (T Jake Stoetzner and G Brock Anderson). The latter two are 300-pounders who gained valuable experience as freshmen. RB Ken Bohanon is a load who excels in short yardage. TE Keith Carey is raw talent.
Offensive concerns: The Hurricane would like to find a darting, speed back to complement Bohanon, who really is more of a fullback. Other tailback candidates include D.J. Barnett, who didn't do much to impress last year before going down with an injury, and incoming freshman Jorma Bailey. Although the return of Wall brings needed depth to the quarterback position, a controversy could develop if Blankenship starts slowly. Both QBs also must cut down on interceptions.
Defensive philosophy: Keith Burns is a defensive guru. He and new coordinator/old buddy Jeff McInerney have installed the 4-4 scheme Burns used at Arkansas and McInerney at UNLV. The first order of the new system is to plug a porous run defense.
Defensive stars: LB Ashon Farley has the speed to get into the backfield or drop into coverage. The secondary is the deepest and most talented unit on defense. CB Sedrick Lusk and SS Keithan McCorry are solid, and LB Chris Miller is a big hitter. Brett Butler and Lusk will act as combo linebackers/safeties in the new scheme. Up front, Da'mond Robinson moves from end to tackle. DE Chris Odom, competent the last two seasons, has to have a breakout year.
Defensive concerns: Can the new scheme make a difference for a squad that couldn't stop anybody and surrendered 35 points per game? Robinson's move to tackle is designed to bolster the rush defense, but he gives up a lot of size inside. Tulsa needs to get pressure on the quarterback after netting just 14 sacks a year ago. Outside of Farley, the other linebackers are coming off injuries or have played little. The corners will be left in man coverage in a pass-happy league.
Special teams: The field-goal kicking was a sore spot last year, and Chris Earnest, Ricky Tallant and Brian Huens are battling for the job. P Casey Lipscomb is back, and Shoals shows promise as a return man.
Head coach: Burns brings a business-first, win-now attitude to his first head-coaching job. A defensive assistant the last 15 years, Burns served as a coordinator for four bowl teams in the last six years. He is trying to tap into the support the basketball program has traditionally enjoyed to refurbish facilities and put fans in the seats. He assembled almost an entirely new staff with an emphasis on youth. Beyond the two coordinators, the five assistants Burns hired are 33 or younger.

TULSA

Making plays: *Farley's 1999 season included a team-high 85 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and a 63-yard interception return for a touchdown.*

Schedule: On-field improvement may not be rewarded on the scoreboard, as six of the first 10 games are on the road. The Hurricane open at North Carolina, which is expected to bounce back from a 3-8 season. Home games against Oklahoma State and Louisiana Tech and a trip to New Mexico State also present challenging matchups. Of last season's WAC tri-champs, only TCU will travel to Skelly Stadium. An upset or two could set up a break-even campaign with the final two games at home.
Bottom line: Tulsa will be the most improved team in the WAC if its new defense can just keep games close, and if the players keep their heads up after what figures to be a tough non-conference start.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Corey Brown**	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**	Andrew LeCrone	6-3	198	Sr.
T	*Tony Katic	6-4	270	Fr.	Jake Stoetzner	6-5	300	So.
G	**Steve Wiedower**	**6-3**	**282**	**Sr.**	*Earl Ireson	6-5	295	Fr.
C	**Steve Schiller**	**6-5**	**288**	**Sr.**	Anthony Taylor	6-0	261	So.
G	Jason Daniluk	6-5	305	So.	Brock Anderson	6-3	312	So.
T	**Kevin Shaffer**	**6-5**	**279**	**Jr.**	Phil Franks	6-8	284	Sr.
TE	*Jarrod Roach	6-2	195	Fr.	*Austin Chadwick	6-4	250	Fr.
WR	Donald Shoals	5-10	180	Jr.	Donald Moten	5-11	185	Jr.
QB	**Josh Blankenship**	**6-2**	**197**	**So.**	Michael Wall	6-4	203	Sr.
RB	D.J. Barnett	5-11	190	So.	Terrance Smalls	5-7	175	Sr.
RB	Ken Bohanon	6-1	244	Jr.	Jorma Bailey	6-0	185	Fr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Chris Odom**	**6-4**	**245**	**Sr.**	Justin Dixon	6-1	222	Jr.
T	Da'mond Robinson	6-2	249	Sr.	Mark Mallory	6-6	251	So.
NG	Sam Rayburn	6-4	260	So.	Beau Gray	6-2	280	So.
E	*Sammy Umobong	6-3	240	Fr.	**Drew McLaughlin**	**6-3**	**230**	**Jr.**
OLB	Philip Abode	6-1	207	Sr.	*Brandon Fuqua	6-0	210	Fr.
MLB	**Ashon Farley**	**5-11**	**222**	**Sr.**	**Brad Hawkins**	**6-2**	**230**	**So.**
OLB	*Chad Smith	6-1	192	Fr.	**Chris Miller**	**5-9**	**185**	**Sr.**
CB	Sedrick Lusk	5-11	178	Sr.	Rockie Young	5-7	171	So.
SS	**Keithan McCorry**	**5-11**	**177**	**So.**	*Lee Young	6-0	195	Fr.
FS	Harold Burgess	5-11	190	Jr.	Gavin Engle	6-1	188	So.
CB	**Brett Butler**	**6-0**	**180**	**So.**	Frankie Johnson	5-11	188	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Chris Earnest**	**6-2**	**196**	**Jr.**	Ricky Tallant	5-10	180	So.	**P**	**Casey Lipscomb**	**6-0**	**218**	**Jr.**

7 Rice

NATIONAL RANK 97

Coach: Ken Hatfield (31-34-1, 6 years; 142-96-4 overall, 21 years)
Offensive coordinator: David Lee (6th season)
Defensive coordinator: Roger Hinshaw (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Spread option
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 39
Site: Houston
Stadium: Rice (turf, 70,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (SWC, tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1961
1999 TSN rank: 77
1999 record: 5-6. WAC: 4-3/4th

1999 Results

at Houston, L, 28-3
at Michigan, L, 37-3
at Texas, L, 18-13
Navy, W, 20-17
at Tulsa, W, 20-10
at Hawaii, W, 38-19
San Jose State, W, 49-7
TCU, W, 42-21
at SMU, L, 27-2
at Fresno State, L, 47-18
UTEP, L, 30-29

Schedule

S2—Houston
S9—at Michigan
S16—Tulsa
S23—at Oklahoma
S30—at San Jose State
O7—Fresno State
O21—Hawaii
O28—at TCU
N4—SMU
N11—at UTEP
N18—at Nevada

Offensive philosophy: The spread option is predicated on a good line and a deep set of backs. Rice has finished in the top 10 in rushing the last six seasons, and coach Ken Hatfield isn't about to deviate from his time-tested system. The quarterbacks only throw out of necessity.
Offensive stars: QB Corey Evans had limited playing time before going out with a knee injury in '99, and there's no experience behind him. Evans, if healthy, is a strong runner. The first option in the option is FB Jamie Tyler, who also has had injury problems. Tyler excels in short yardage, banging his way between the tackles. The Owls' leading rushing is HB Leroy Bradley, a breakaway threat. LT Rob Beavan, C Aaron Sandoval and RG Heath Fowler anchor a line whose quickness is more important that its size.
Offensive concerns: Many new faces and position changes leave plenty of variables up in the air. Rice teams always are able to run the ball, but will the Owls be consistent enough considering their untested personnel? The lack of a passing threat will make fourth-quarter comebacks nearly impossible.
Defensive philosophy: The Owls run a 4-4-3 and, despite not seeing much of a passing game in practice, are trying to emphasize pass defense this season. The run defense always has been solid and is keyed by the linebackers. The line is agile and deep, with its effectiveness coming from positioning and technique.
Defensive stars: LB Dan Dawson, who broke his leg late in the season, and most of the top players are back. Dawson has excellent speed and playmaking ability. NG B.J. Forguson is a force, combining quickness, strength and leadership. DEs Jake Jackson and Jarrett Erwin are basically linebackers in down positions, specializing in getting outside the tackles and into the backfield. A three-year starter at cornerback, Adrian Sadler was moved to offense, but the secondary still has plenty of talent. FS Jason Hebert came up with the picks in '99, and SS Travis Ortega made the big hits. CB Josh McMillan is back, and Greg Gatlin and Kenny Smith will compete for Sadler's old job.
Defensive concerns: They revolve mainly around pass defense and getting enough quality reps in practice. It's hard to simulate Hawaii's pass-happy attack, for example, when the forward pass hasn't made more than a cameo at Rice in the last six years. To avoid wearing down in the fourth quarter, the defense will need the offense to control the clock.
Special teams: Field-position battles should swing the Owls' way, with a kicking game that is possibly the best in the league. K Derek Crabtree has nailed more than 90 percent of his field-goal attempts the last two years, and P Travis Hale averaged 41.5 yards as a true freshman. PR Hebert and KR Sean White are steady.
Head coach: Considering the past football fortunes at Rice, Hatfield's job appears safe, but the Owls haven't met expectations the last two seasons. In an age of pro-style offenses, Hatfield is one of a dying breed that still employs a full-time option scheme. His conservative attack may not win many style points, but he's made the most out of a program that has traditionally not recruited or performed well.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

First option: *Tyler was Rice's third-leading rusher in '99 despite missing four games with injuries. When healthy, he's a real load to tackle.*

Schedule: The Owls open the season at home against crosstown rival Houston, a team they haven't beaten since 1994. The goal in the other two non-conference affairs—games at Michigan and at Oklahoma—appears to be staying competitive. If the Owls can start 2-2, they will have a shot at a winning season. WAC contenders Hawaii and Fresno State come to Houston, and conference favorite TCU hosts the Owls.
Bottom line: Uncertainty on offense could make the games against Michigan and Oklahoma ugly. The defense looks solid, especially if the pass defense comes around, but there's little margin for error. Four of Rice's six losses last season were blowouts. The Owls should know by late October whether they'll contend for the league crown.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Matt Webber	5-10	175	Jr.	Gilbert Okoronkwo	6-3	195	Jr.
T	**Rod Beavan**	**6-3**	**270**	**Sr.**	Anthony Mowry	6-4	260	Jr.
G	Kelly Hejtmancik	6-3	260	Jr.	Keith Meyer	6-3	260	So.
C	**Aaron Sandoval**	**6-2**	**295**	**Sr.**	*Ben Stephens	6-2	290	Fr.
G	**Heath Fowler**	**6-2**	**275**	**Jr.**	Joe Davis	6-1	295	Jr.
T	Billy Harvin	6-4	270	Jr.	Clint Crisp	6-3	290	So.
TE	Brandon Manning	6-4	235	Jr.	Travis Thompson	6-2	250	So.
HB	Adrian Sadler	5-10	190	Sr.	Sean White	5-6	175	So.
QB	*Jeremy Hurd	5-10	170	Fr.	Corey Evans	5-11	180	Jr.
HB	**Leroy Bradley**	**5-11**	**205**	**Jr.**	Anthony Griffin	5-10	200	Sr.
FB	**Jamie Tyler**	**5-11**	**220**	**Jr.**	Nick Sabula	6-2	215	So.

Defense

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	**Jake Jackson**	**6-2**	**250**	**Sr.**	Clint Johnson	6-1	250	So.
T	Larry Brown	6-2	290	Jr.	Willie Merritt	6-3	295	Jr.
NT	**B.J. Forguson**	**6-3**	**290**	**Jr.**	Willie Merritt	6-3	295	Jr.
E	**Jarrett Erwin**	**6-1**	**240**	**Sr.**	Brandon Green	6-3	230	So.
ILB	Rashard Pittman	5-11	225	So.	*Justin Engler	6-2	205	Fr.
ILB	**Joe Bob Thompson**	**6-0**	**215**	**Jr.**	Scott Huffman	5-10	215	So.
OLB	**Dan Dawson**	**6-2**	**200**	**Jr.**	LonDee Smith	6-1	205	Sr.
CB	**Josh McMillan**	**5-11**	**170**	**Sr.**	*Jason Benjamin	5-7	155	Fr.
SS	**Travis Ortega**	**6-3**	**210**	**Sr.**	Antwan Shell	5-11	185	So.
FS	**Jason Hebert**	**6-0**	**185**	**Jr.**	*John White	5-11	170	Fr.
CB	Kenny Smith	5-7	170	Jr.	Greg Gatlin	6-0	175	So.

Special Teams

K	**Derek Crabtree**	**6-4**	**210**	**Jr.**	**P**	**Travis Hale**	**6-3**	**215**	**So.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

8 San Jose State

NATIONAL RANK 103

Coach: Dave Baldwin (11-22, 3 years; 20-34 overall, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Graf (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Paul Arslanian (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple, one-back
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 35
Site: San Jose, Calif.
Stadium: Spartan (grass, 30,456)
Last league title won: 1992
Last bowl appearance: 1990
1999 TSN rank: 98
1999 record: 3-7. WAC: 1-5/7th

1999 Results

at LSU, L, 29-21
at Colorado, L, 63-35
Saint Mary's, W, 38-3
Tulsa, W, 34-10
at Stanford, W, 44-39
at TCU, L, 42-0
at Rice, L, 49-7
at UTEP, L, 42-26
Hawaii, L, 62-41
at Fresno State, L, 63-12

Schedule

S2—at Nebraska
S9—at Stanford
S16—Southern Utah
S23—at USC
S30—Rice
O7—at SMU
O14—UTEP
O21—at Nevada
O28—at Hawaii
N4—TCU
N18—at Tulsa
N25—Fresno State

Offensive philosophy: The Spartans employ multiple sets, usually out of a one-back formation, with an emphasis on receivers making plays.
Offensive stars: QBs Marcus Arroyo and Brennan Crooks will battle to replace the departed Chris Kasteler. Arroyo has five career starts, all in 1998, and Crooks was the backup last year behind Kasteler. Whoever wins the job will have a talented trio of receivers with size and speed to throw to. WRs Shawn Green, Casey LeBlanc and Waking Bailey caught 90 balls among them last season. Junior college transfers Rashied Davis and Edell Shepherd are being counted on to give the Spartans the deep threat they lacked the past few seasons. Do-everything TB Deonce Whitaker underwent neck surgery in late March but figures to be at full strength when the season starts. If not, TB Darian Morton, who performed admirably in Whitaker's absence last year, gets the nod. LT Chris Fe'esago heads an experienced line. TE Sean Brewer, who also has played defensive tackle, has good hands and blocks well.
Offensive concerns: The team needs to settle on a quarterback and have Whitaker at full strength all season. It also needs to cut down on turnovers (minus-10 last season) and improve its time of possession.
Defensive philosophy: There has been a complete overhaul of a unit that ranked 113th in total defense and 114th in scoring last season. Under new coordinator Paul Arslanian, the flex package is gone, replaced by a multiple package that places a premium on aggression. Arslanian plans to start with a base 4-3 alignment that can change quickly depending on the offense.
Defensive stars: MLB Josh Parry is the soul of the defense. At 6-2, 243 pounds, Parry has all the physical skills to go with his relentless pursuit of ballcarriers. Ron Ockimey and Marshall Blount will be new starters at linebacker; they picked up valuable experience filling in last season. The Spartans will have a completely new line. Holdovers Kevin Michaelis, Chris Tandy, Brandon Miles and Daniel Mauga will battle for starting spots at end. Bryan Yeager, John Hammer (who moves back to defense after spending last season on the offensive line), Tim Mathewson, Damurius Richardson and Edgar Nava will compete for jobs at tackle. The secondary returns intact with CBs Dorae Lewis and Carlos Koustas, SS Travis Seaton and FS Kenny Sanchez, but juggling may occur as the season progresses.
Defensive concerns: A line that was miserable last year will have four new starters. How will it perform? Finding a consistent pass rush from the ends and forcing turnovers, especially in pass defense, are top priorities. In seven of 10 games last year, including the last six, the Spartans allowed at least 39 points.
Special teams: Despite limited touches last season, Whitaker is one of the most dangerous kickoff return men in the country. Bailey also is a threat to score on punt returns. Redshirt freshman Bryce Partridge and true freshman Matthew Witcher will battle for the punting job, and sophomore Nick Gilliam and true freshman John Wall try to decide the kicking chores.
Head coach: Dave Baldwin enters his fourth year at San Jose State with only 11 wins during his tenure. He hopes to avoid the fate of the school's last three coaches, none of whom lasted more than four years in a program that hasn't had a winning season since '92. At least Baldwin addressed the team's most pressing need—defense—by hiring a new coordinator.
Schedule: Keeping up the spirits of his players may be Baldwin's most critical task after they open with a four-game, non-conference schedule that includes road games with Nebraska, Stanford and USC.
Bottom line: Arslanian's new defense can't do any worse than last year's unit, but a major improvement is needed if the Spartans hope to sniff an above-.500 season. The play of Arroyo or Crooks is crucial for an offense that looks to have a number of weapons.

SAN JOSE STATE

It all starts here: *According to Baldwin, Whitaker (above) is the 'Pied Piper' of the program. All opponents know is that he's tough to defend.*

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Rashied Davis	5-9	155	So.	Kenny Nears	6-0	182	Sr.
T	**Chris Fe'esago**	**6-3**	**325**	**Jr.**	Scott Vandygrift	6-5	295	So.
G	**Jeremy Dominguez**	**6-3**	**331**	**Sr.**	*Edrick Contreras	6-1	305	Fr.
C	**Bruno Contreras**	**6-2**	**283**	**Jr.**	Bill Berg	6-2	263	Jr.
G	Joel Tautuaa	6-4	355	Jr.	Andrew Ball	6-3	330	Jr.
T	**Tim Provost**	**6-6**	**281**	**So.**	*Joseph Hayes	6-4	318	Fr.
TE	**Sean Brewer**	**6-4**	**255**	**Sr.**	Jesse Rogers	6-3	248	Sr.
WR	**Casey LeBlanc**	**5-10**	**192**	**Jr.**	**Shawn Green**	**6-2**	**193**	**Sr.**
QB	Marcus Arroyo	6-1	190	So.	Brennan Crooks	6-1	163	Jr.
RB	**Deonce Whitaker**	**5-6**	**175**	**Sr.**	Darian Morton	5-6	183	Sr.
WR	Edell Shepherd	6-1	159	Jr.	Waking Bailey	5-9	181	Sr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Chris Tandy	6-3	238	Sr.	Kevin Michaelis	6-4	249	Sr.
T	Edgar Nava	6-1	272	Sr.	Tim Mathewson	6-3	239	Jr.
T	Bryan Yeager	6-2	265	Sr.	Damurius Richardson	5-11	271	Jr.
E	Brandon Miles	6-0	240	Fr.	Daniel Mauga	6-2	256	Jr.
OLB	Marshall Blount	6-1	200	Sr.	Brian Foreman	6-1	197	So.
MLB	**Josh Parry**	**6-2**	**243**	**Sr.**	Luke LaHerran	6-0	220	Jr.
OLB	Ron Ockimey	6-1	203	Sr	Zack Rance	5-11	206	So.
CB	**Dorae Lewis**	**5-8**	**173**	**Sr.**	Anwar Johnson	5-9	182	Jr.
SS	**Travis Seaton**	**5-10**	**180**	**Sr.**	Neil Parry	6-0	176	So.
FS	Willie Adams	5-10	169	Jr.	**Kenny Sanchez**	**5-9**	**171**	**Sr.**
CB	Kevin Boyer	5-8	152	So.	**Carlos Koustas**	**5-9**	**190**	**So.**

Special Teams

K	Nick Gilliam	5-8	177	So.	*John Wall	5-8	174	Fr.	P	*Bryce Partridge	6-2	178	Fr.	Matthew Witcher	6-2	180	Fr.

More on San Jose State at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/sanjosestate/ AOL keyword: TSN

9 Nevada

NATIONAL RANK 105

Coach: Chris Tormey (1st season; 33-23 overall, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Phil Earley (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Jeff Mills (1st season)
Offensive scheme: One back
Defensive scheme: 4-4
Starters lost: 15
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 31
Site: Reno, Nev.
Stadium: Mackay (grass, 31,545)
Last league title won: 1996 (Big West)
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1999 TSN rank: 99
1999 record: 3-8. Big West: 2-4/6th

1999 Results

Oregon State, L, 28-13
at Colorado St., L, 38-33
at Oregon, L, 72-10
Fresno State, L, 49-24
UNLV, W, 26-12
at New Mex. St., W, 23-16
at Boise State, L, 52-17
North Texas, W, 41-28
Idaho, L, 42-33
at Arkansas St., L, 44-28
Utah State, L, 37-35

Schedule

S2—at Oregon
S9—TCU
S23—at Wyoming
S30—Colorado State
O7—at UNLV
O14—at Fresno State
O21—San Jose State
O28—at SMU
N4—UTEP
N11—at Hawaii
N18—Rice
N25—at Tulsa

Offensive philosophy: The Wolf Pack uses everything from a one-back, to two tight ends, five receivers and the shotgun. New coach Chris Tormey wants to take advantage of experienced QB David Neill and develop a more consistent running attack out of the one-back set.

Offensive stars: Tormey has the right conductor to orchestrate his offense in Neill, a junior who already has had two 3,000-yard passing seasons. Neill (6-5, 200) is agile and tough to bring down, often breaking off big gains when his receivers are covered. Those receivers—namely Mo Jones and Jermaine Brown and TE Erik Streelman—have some playing time under their belts. WR Nate Burleson has shown some explosiveness in practice. OT Clark Roosendaal will anchor what largely will be a rebuilt line. The running back position is wide open with Adrien Dugas, Johnnie Holmes and Marquis Starks in contention. In terms of speed and size, Dugas, a senior, is the type of back Tormey is looking for, but he isn't battle-tested.

Offensive concerns: Outside of Neill, the unit has little experience. The line is small by Division I standards and not very physical. Though the system may not seem much different to the average fan, expect the offense, with so many newcomers, to struggle with execution for the better part of the season.

Defensive philosophy: Tormey is challenging teams to beat the Wolf Pack through the air. He has installed an attacking, eight-man front designed to stop the run first and pressure the quarterback second.

Defensive stars: Tormey is counting on ILB Josh Smith and DT Horacio Leyva to give his inexperienced defense direction. Smith likes to throw his 235-pound body around and mix it up all over the field. Leyva, one of the strongest players on the team, anchors the front four. Joining Leyva are DTs Isaiah Ross and John Fehoko. Front-runners to start at end are Jacob Silicz and Ronnie Taylor. LB Jeff Peterson made some plays last season, and ILB Jorge Cordova has potential. Offensive refugee Ronald Hardiman joins Aaron Dean, Domonic Cruz and Leondre Lewis in the battle at cornerback.

Defensive concerns: Like the other side of the ball, the defense basically is starting over with nine new faces on the first team. Smith and Leyva can hold their own, but the unit lacks true playmakers. If the front eight doesn't come through, the secondary figures to be tested repeatedly, and Tormey's challenge will seem more like an invitation.

Special teams: The kicking game, return units and coverage teams were spotty last season. P Norm Brady was average, and K Mike Phillips struggled with accuracy. Joe Todd likely will be the new punter. Hardiman and Burleson will be given a chance to return kicks, joining Holmes and Dugas, who were mediocre at best last year.

Head coach: Though he spent five successful seasons at Idaho, his alma mater, Tormey jumped at the chance to come to Nevada. Tormey built his reputation as a recruiter and defensive coach in an 11-year stint at Washington before heading to Idaho. Besides rebuilding a depleted talented base, Tormey must steer the program into a stronger league.

NEVADA

Back for more: *Neill finished fourth in Division I-A last year in total offense (328.3 ypg), ahead of both Chad Pennington and Chris Redman.*

Schedule: Tormey could easily go seven games into the season before picking up his first win. Of the team's 12 games, seven are on the road, including non-conference matchups with Pac-10 contender Oregon, Wyoming and UNLV. After the league opener with TCU, the Pack will play 10 straight weeks.

Bottom line: Progress won't be measured in wins and losses, but with the team's grasp of Tormey's new system from week to week. With so many questions across the board, Tormey has no idea what to expect. With that in mind, the combination of going into a new conference with one of the toughest schedules in school history will make for a long season for the Wolf Pack.

DEPTH CHART

Returning starters in bold ** Redshirt*

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Mike Crawford	5-9	168	Jr.	Mo Jones	6-1	185	Jr.
T	*Alan Parker	6-6	290	Fr.	Brian Barnes	6-6	302	So.
G	Matt Cannon	6-5	276	Jr.	Turner Grahan	6-3	293	Jr.
C	Cody Johnson	6-4	270	So.	*Evan Shuler	6-3	275	Fr.
G	Sean Folweiler	6-3	275	Jr.	Brandon Siefker	6-4	283	So.
T	**Clark Roosendaal**	**6-6**	**300**	**Sr.**	Nicholas Rae	6-3	295	Jr.
TE	Erik Streelman	6-5	239	Jr.	Scott Asai	6-3	235	Jr.
WR	**Jermaine Brown**	**5-11**	**177**	**So.**	*Nate Burleson	6-2	169	Fr.
QB	**David Neill**	**6-5**	**200**	**Jr.**	Zack Threadgill	6-2	200	So.
RB	Adrien Dugas	5-10	185	Sr.	Johnnie Holmes	5-9	165	So.
WR	Aaron Carter	6-2	189	So.	T.W. Cunningham	5-11	193	Sr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Jacob Silicz	6-5	240	Jr.	*Brant Hill	6-4	240	Fr.
T	**Horatio Leyva**	**6-4**	**250**	**Jr.**	*Isaiah Ross	6-3	305	Fr.
T	*John Fehoko	6-3	285	Fr.	*Isaiah Ross	6-3	305	Fr.
E	Ronnie Taylor	6-4	250	Sr.	Steve Sylvester	6-4	235	Jr.
OLB	Christian Broussard	6-0	195	Sr.	*Maurice Townsell	6-1	180	Fr.
ILB	**Josh Smith**	**6-1**	**235**	**Sr.**	*Jorge Cordova	6-2	235	Fr.
ILB	Jeff Peterson	6-1	220	Jr.	Bert Schenone	6-1	235	So.
OLB	**Darren Taylor**	**6-1**	**235**	**Sr.**	*Carl Lagrone	6-4	210	Fr.
CB	Aaron Dean	5-10	170	So.	*Ronald Hardiman	6-0	170	Fr.
FS	Brian Laudermilk	6-1	170	Sr.	*Tim White	6-1	200	Fr.
CB	Domonic Cruz	5-9	180	So.	*Leondre Lewis	5-10	165	Fr.

Special Teams

K	**Mike Phillips**	**5-10**	**170**	**Sr.**	Ray Sanchez	5-9	170	So.	P	**Joe Todd**	**5-10**	**175**	**So.**

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

SCOUTING THE MAC

Even Northern Illinois, Akron dream of title with Marshall retooling

CONFERENCE RANK 10

By Doug Zaleski

In a sense, the MAC is starting anew.

The league gained its highest acclaim in decades last year when Marshall finished 13-0 and ended the season with a No. 10 ranking by TSN.

The heart of that team, especially on offense, is gone. Though Marshall will continue to rank as a top team in the conference, the pack should draw a little closer.

Akron expects to have its best team in years and could unseat Marshall as the champion in the East. That would be a first for the Zips, who haven't finished higher than third since joining the MAC in 1992.

Speaking of non-contenders, Northern Illinois hasn't won a MAC title since 1983 (it left the conference from 1986-96). But the Huskies are a team on the rise and could challenge Toledo for the West crown.

An Akron-Northern Illinois championship showdown? That would be a departure from the norm.

Ascending: Northern Illinois and Akron. Both programs were among the dregs of the MAC three years ago, but they have risen to the point of being contenders.

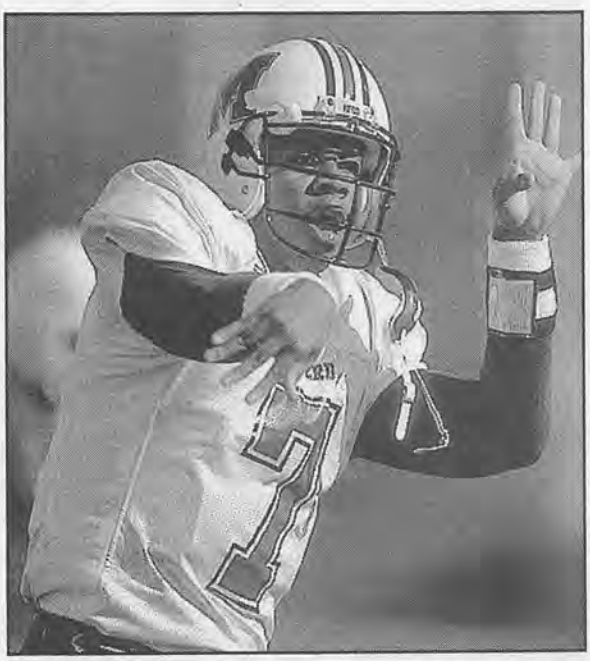
Descending: Western Michigan soared to prominence last season behind QB Tim Lester and nearly defeated Marshall on its home field for the MAC title. The Broncos' cupboard isn't bare, but losing Lester will knock them down a couple of notches.

Best matchup: Marshall at Toledo, October 14. This should be a MAC championship game preview, and the Rockets are ecstatic about playing Marshall on their home field after going 0-3 at Marshall the past three seasons.

Upset of the year: Bowling Green will beat Akron at home October 7. The Zips figure to be in the East Division race, but they don't play particularly well on the road.

Bowl bound: This is the year Toledo gets over the hump. The Rockets had solid teams in '97 and '98 but ran into Marshall each time.

Biggest shoes to fill: Pity poor Byron Leftwich, the heir apparent to Chad Pennington as Marshall's quarterback.



CRAIG MELVIN FOR TSN

Skimpy record: *Leftwich attempted 24 passes in his first two seasons at Marshall, with no touchdowns and two interceptions.*

Mid-American IN A NUTSHELL

PROJECTED CHAMPION: Marshall

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Marshall EAST	Looking for a steady hand at quarterback. Tackles need to step in and stuff the run.	WR Nate Poole G Jimmy Cabellos	CB Daninelle Derricott CB Maurice Hines	Sept. 23 at North Carolina Oct. 28 at Akron
2. Akron	Promising skill-position talent needs to deliver. Depth on line and at linebacker are iffy.	QB Butchie Washington WR Lavel Bailey	CB Dwight Smith CB Rich Reliford	Sept. 2 at Virginia Tech Oct. 28 vs. Marshall
3. Miami	Searching for a running back. In need of help at linebacker.	WR Sly Johnson QB Mike Bath	T Andy Aracri SS Brandon Godsey	Sept. 2 at Vanderbilt Sept. 30 at Akron
4. Ohio	Have develop some semblance of passing game. Pass defense needs to tighen.	G Nick Glowacki QB Dontrell Jackson	P Dave Zastudil LB Tom Weilbacher	Aug. 31 at Iowa State Nov. 4 at Miami
5. Bowling Green	Need blockers at FB and TE to emerge. Much-maligned secondary has to develop.	WR Kurt Gerling T Rob Fehrman	NG Brandon Hicks LB Khary Campbell	Sept. 9 vs. Pittsburgh Oct. 7 vs. Akron
6. Kent	New quarterback must play with poise. Secondary must be rebuilt.	G Jason Hupp RB Chante Murphy	LB Rashan Hall LB Matt Rayl	Sept. 16 vs. Youngstown State Nov. 18 vs. Akron
7. Buffalo	Line has to replace four starters. Suspect secondary has to solidify.	T David Pruce G Josh Stello	FS Craig Rohlfs LB Chris Shelly	Sept. 9 at Rutgers Nov. 4 vs. Kent
1. Toledo WEST	QB Tavares Bolden is still unproven. Green secondary needs to mature quickly.	RB Chester Taylor T Jim Harding	E DeJuan Goulde LB Kevin Rollins	Sept. 2 at Penn State Oct. 14 vs. Marshall
2. Northern Illinois	Need to hone short-passing game. Line has to be rebuilt.	T Ryan Diem WR Justin McCareins	SS Jermaine Hampton CB Benji Peacock	Aug. 31 at Northwestern Nov. 4 vs. Toledo
3. Western Mich.	Looking for QB with Tim Lester gone. Front seven must limit big plays.	WR Steve Neal RB Robert Sanford	E Scott Karstens LB Mario Evans	Sept. 9 at Iowa Sept. 23 vs. Toledo
4. Central Mich.	Workhorse running back is needed. Line is looking for reinforcements.	WR Jammarl O'Neal T Matt Brayton	CB Tedaro France FS Brian Leigeb	Sept. 23 vs. Boise State Nov. 11 vs. Western Michigan
5. Eastern Mich.	Running game must improve. Must adapt to a new pro-style 4-3 scheme.	QB Walter Church T Craig Cipa	LB Kenny Philpot LB Scott Russell	Sept. 23 at Temple Nov. 4 vs. Central Michigan
6. Ball State	Big line needs to play better. Youngsters must continue to mature.	RB Nick Dunbar QB Brian Conn	T S. Rusunuguko S Pete Smith	Sept. 9 vs. Western Illinois Oct. 14 vs. Eastern Michigan

Most overrated player: Akron QB Butchie Washington has done some good things the past two years, but he isn't overly comfortable with the leadership demands of his position. He'll have to acquire that mindset if he's going to lead the Zips to the upper echelon of the conference.

Most underrated player: Northern Illinois WR Justin McCareins caught 111 passes for 1,392 yards and 15 TDs the past two seasons. Somehow, MAC coaches didn't find a spot for him on the honorable mention list.

Best coach: Marshall's Bob Pruett is 3-for-3 in winning MAC titles since the school joined the conference in 1997. Nobody is willing to bet against him making it 4-for-4.

Best staff: The Marshall staff does two things well: It recruits quality players and develops them once they join the program.

Coach on the hot seat: Gary Blackney is under pressure to win at Bowling Green. He probably would have been fired after going 5-6 last year—his fifth straight losing season—but the school couldn't afford to pay him for the final three years on his contract.

Best bets: Miami has long been known as a run-oriented team, but look for second-year coach Terry Hoeppner to open up the playbook. The RedHawks have good threats at wide receiver, and they scored a recruiting coup when they signed highly touted QB Ben Roethlisberger. ... Toledo finished the 1990s with the most victories of any MAC school with 72. Look for the Rockets to get the early jump on the rest of the MAC teams in this decade. ... Ball State is coming off its first winless season, but don't look for a repeat. The Cardinals have home games against Division I-AA Western Illinois and I-A newcomer Connecticut, plus they'll play fellow 0-11 team Buffalo.

Odds and ends: Toledo coach Gary Pinkel expressed concern last season that the MAC was overscheduling itself in non-conference games, and several teams might have bitten off more than they can chew again this season. Toledo opens the season at Penn State; Ball State plays at Florida and Kansas State in a three-week period; Bowling Green opens at Michigan; and Western Michigan opens at two-time defending Rose Bowl champion Wisconsin. ... Persistence paid off for Northern Illinois coach Joe Novak. After coaching the Huskies to a 3-30 record in his first three seasons, Novak led them to a 5-6 record (5-3 in the MAC) last season. That was good enough to earn him a five-year contract extension. ... Toledo TB Chester Taylor, who gained 1,176 yards in 1999 despite being hobbled by two sprained ankles, underwent a treatment called prolotherapy during the offseason to strengthen the ligaments in his right ankle. Calcium glutenate was injected into the ligaments to help them become stronger. ... Ball State broke ground last spring on a 25,000-square foot training facility next to its stadium that will open next year.

Preseason ALL-MAC

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Steve Neal, Western Michigan	6-0	187	Sr.
WR	Justin McCareins, Northern Illinois	6-1	200	Sr.
TE	Gregg Kellett, Marshall	6-3	250	Jr.
T	Ryan Diem, Northern Illinois	6-7	336	Sr.
T	Rob Fehrman, Bowling Green	6-7	300	Sr.
G	Jimmy Cabellos, Marshall	6-4	310	Sr.
G	Nick Glowacki, Ohio	6-6	310	Jr.
C	Colin Greczek, Western Michigan	6-4	285	Sr.
QB	Walter Church, Eastern Michigan	6-4	225	Sr.
RB	Chester Taylor, Toledo	5-10	195	Sr.
RB	Robert Sanford, Western Michigan	5-11	223	Sr.

Defense

E	Paul Toviessi, Marshall	6-7	260	Sr.
E	DeJuan Goulde, Toledo	6-1	245	Sr.
T	Andy Aracri, Miami	6-1	279	Sr.
LB	Kevin Rollins, Toledo	6-2	225	Sr.
LB	Max Yates, Marshall	6-3	235	Jr.
LB	Mario Evans, Western Michigan	6-0	226	Sr.
LB	Kenny Philpot, Eastern Michigan	6-1	238	Jr.
CB	Daninelle Derricott, Marshall	5-11	170	Sr.
CB	Dwight Smith, Akron	5-11	200	Sr.
S	Jermaine Hampton, Northern Illinois	6-1	207	Sr.
S	Brian Leigeb, Central Michigan	6-2	185	Sr.

Specialists

K	Brad Selent, Western Michigan	5-11	184	Sr.
P	Dave Zastudil, Ohio	6-4	230	Jr.
KR	Rashad McDade, Western Michigan	5-10	175	Jr.

Honor Roll

Top offensive newcomer: Ernest Pitts, RB, Marshall
Top defensive newcomer: Phil Smith, E, Miami
Best Offensive backfield: Toledo
Best wide recievers: Western Michigan
Best offensive line: Toledo
Best defensive line: Miami
Best linebackers: Marshall
Best secondary: Marshall
Best special teams: Ohio
Hardest hitter: Michael Owens, SS, Marshall
Best backup QB: Troy Edwards, Eastern Michigan
Best pro prospect: Daninelle Derricott, CB, Marsh.
Best game-day atmosphere: Marshall

Player of the Year

Daninelle Derricott, CB, Marshall

CRAIG MELVIN FOR TSN

Daninelle Derricott is proof you don't need an imposing physical presence to be a difference-maker on the field.

Derricott, a 5-11, 170-pound senior cornerback, is the top playmaker in the Mid-American Conference. "He's not a big guy, but he plays with a big heart," Marshall coach Bob Pruett says.

Derricott's effectiveness has helped the Thundering Herd build a 35-4 record the past three seasons.

In 1998, Derricott made game-altering plays five times in the fourth quarter to help Marshall finish 12-1. His six interceptions ranked second in the nation, and he returned a fumble for a touchdown in the MAC championship game against Toledo.

Derricott, who attended Patrick Henry High in Ashland, Va., was just as productive last year despite suffering a broken hand in preseason practice. He played the first four games with a soft cast and continued to excel at a high level in helping Marshall go 13-0 and finish 10th in THE SPORTING NEWS' final power poll. He picked off four passes, helping Marshall lead the nation with 24 interceptions.

Making Derricott, who spent a year at Fork Union Military Academy before enrolling at Marshall, even more dangerous is that fellow senior cornerback Maurice Hines also is a standout. That first-team All-MAC duo, which is joined in the secondary by returning starting free safety Doug Hodges, is two of six returning starters from a defense that ranked third in the nation in pass-efficiency last year and allowed just eight touchdown passes.

It's enough to give Marshall fans reason to expect a fourth straight MAC title. *—Doug Zaleski*

Recruiting

RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Ben Roethlisberger	QB	6-6/195	Findlay, Ohio/Findlay	Miami
2. Ernest Pitts	RB	5-8/180	Wesson, Miss./Copiah-Lincoln (Miss.) JC	Marshall
3. Andrew English	QB	6-4/220	Crestwood, Ky./South Oldham	Marshall
4. Ryan Clifford	RB	5-9/185	Naperville, Ill./Central	Eastern Michigan
5. Toby Bullock	OT	6-5/285	Jacksonville, Fla./Englewood	Marshall
6. Dennis Thompson	OT	6-4/272	Tallmadge, Ohio/Walsh Jesuit	Ohio
7. Jason Hawkins	RB	6-2/215	Schaumburg, Ill./Schaumburg	Northern Illinois
8. Corterris Reese	WR	6-3/185	Louisville/Wagganer	Toledo
9. Josh Blakely	DT	6-5/290	Lexington, Ky./Henry Clay	Marshall
10. Travis Atwell	QB	6-2/195	Owensboro, Ky./Hancock County	Toledo
11. Stafford Owens	QB	5-10/180	Harvey, Ill./Thornton	Ohio
12. Chris Ray	WR	6-0/180	Decatur, Miss./East Central (Miss.) CC	Marshall
13. Ryan Harris	QB	6-1/200	Franklin, Idaho/Ricks (Idaho) JC	Western Michigan
14. Gary Young	OT	6-4/280	Evergreen Park, Ill./Mount Carmel	Northern Illinois
15. Kyle Ras	OT	6-6/270	Jenison, Mich./Jenison	Western Michigan
16. Paul Tripp	CB	6-0/180	San Diego/Santa Monica (Calif.) CC	Miami
17. Dwayne Lefall	DE	6-4/225	Oakland, Calif./McClymonds	Akron
18. Mike Morris	DT	6-3/275	Livonia, Mich./Catholic Central	Central Michigan
19. Marlon Anderson	LB	6-2/195	Detroit/Cass Tech	Bowling Green
20. Kenny Sanders	QB	6-3/189	Indianapolis/Broad Ripple	Ball State

RANKING the CLASSES

1. Marshall	4. Toledo	7. Bowling Green	10. Ball State
2. Ohio	5. Miami	8. Akron	11. E. Michigan
3. Northern Illinois	6. W. Michigan	9. C. Michigan	12. Buffalo/13. Kent

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Marshall

HERD DATA

NATIONAL RANK 50

Coach: Bob Pruett (50-4, 4 years)
1999 record: 13-0 (beat BYU in Motor City Bowl); MAC East: 8-0/1st
Site: Huntington, W.Va.
Stadium: Marshall (turf, 30,000)
Last league title won: 1999

SCHEDULE

A31—SE Missouri State
S9—at Michigan State
S23—at North Carolina
S30—Buffalo
O7—Western Michigan
O14—at Toledo
O21—Kent
O28—at Akron
N4—at Bowling Green
N11—Miami
N18—at Ohio

Offensive philosophy: The biggest misnomer about the Marshall offense is that it is a high-flying circus act. In reality, what the Thundering Herd likes to do is to spread defenses by throwing short- to medium-range passes. Once that happens, the running game can operate more freely. The players are very assignment-sharp within the system.

Offensive stars: WR Nate Poole is one of the top pass-catching threats in the league. At 6-3, he is a big target by MAC standards. G Jimmy Cabellos is a dominating blocker who will anchor the line.

Offensive concerns: The big question is how Byron Leftwich will perform at quarterback in place of Chad Pennington. Leftwich threw only 11 passes last season. He was going to redshirt in 1999 but instead ended up playing sparingly behind Pennington. Chanston Rogers should replace Doug Chapman at tailback. Rogers needed knee surgery after tearing an anterior cruciate ligament in spring practice and says he will be ready for the start of the season. Still, there are no guarantees. The line lacks depth.

Defensive philosophy: Marshall's broad talent base allows it to be the MAC's most aggressive defensive team. Marshall's 24 interceptions last year were seven more than the league's next-best team. With two excellent cornerbacks in Daninelle Derricott and Maurice Hines, who excel at one-on-one pass coverage, the linebackers are free to blitz.

Defensive stars: Derricott is the best defensive player in the league, and Hines is an all-MAC player. Backup CBs Yancey Satterwhite and Terrance Tarpley could start for many other MAC teams. MLB Max Yates showed his toughness in '98, when he missed only five games with a broken ankle.

Defensive concerns: Two starters and two backups were lost from last year's line. The biggest need is at tackle, where former ends Antony Beckett and Orlando Washington and ex-LB Judd Tabor are trying to make impressions.

Bottom line: Despite losing 19 seniors from last year's 13-0 team, Marshall players and coaches never once talked about rebuilding during the offseason. Although depth on both sides of the ball is somewhat in question, the Thundering Herd should be a dominant force in the MAC again this season on the heels of three straight championships and bowl appearances.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**John Cooper**	**6-4**	**200**	**Sr.**
T	**Steve Sciullo**	**6-5**	**315**	**So.**
G	Scott Harper	6-4	285	Sr.
C	Jeff Edwards	6-3	249	So.
G	**Jimmy Cabellos**	**6-4**	**310**	**Sr.**
T	James Simons	6-5	305	Sr.
TE	**Gregg Kellett**	**6-3**	**250**	**Jr.**
WR	**Nate Poole**	**6-1**	**186**	**Sr.**
WR	David Foye	6-1	202	Sr.
QB	Byron Leftwich	6-5	221	So.
RB	Chanston Rogers	5-9	201	So.

Defense

E	Ralph Street	6-0	240	Sr.
E	**Paul Toviessi**	**6-7**	**260**	**Sr.**
T	Antony Beckett	6-3	275	Sr.
NT	**Jimmy Parker**	**6-3**	**279**	**Sr.**
OLB	George Miller	6-0	230	Sr.
MLB	**Max Yates**	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**
OLB	Alonzo Jones	6-0	204	Sr.
CB	**Maurice Hines**	**5-10**	**175**	**Sr.**
SS	Michael Owens	5-10	206	Jr.
FS	**Doug Hodges**	**5-7**	**192**	**Sr.**
CB	**Daninelle Derricott**	**5-11**	**170**	**Sr.**

Special Teams

K	J.R. Jenkins	6-0	205	Sr.
P	Curtis Head	5-10	168	So.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

2 Akron

ZIPS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 57

Coach: Lee Owens (19-36, 5 years)
1999 record: 7-4. MAC East: 5-3/T3rd
Site: Akron, Ohio
Stadium: Rubber Bowl (turf, 35,202)
Last league title: none

SCHEDULE

S2—at Virginia Tech
S9—at Central Michigan
S16—Central Florida
S23—at Ohio
S30—Miami
O7—at Bowling Green
O14—Northern Illinois
O21—Connecticut
O28—Marshall
N11—Buffalo
N18—at Kent

Offensive philosophy: Akron likes to play power football, rushing the ball behind a big offensive line. The Zips have been among the nation's top rushing teams the past three seasons. They tried to become more varied with their passing attack last year, but their bread-and-butter remains on the ground.

Offensive stars: QB Butchie Washington holds several school records. He isn't a great thrower, but his athleticism allows him to make plays. Lavel Bailey went from an obscure receiver to one of the top pass catchers in the MAC last season. Bailey, a former Ohio State walk-on, used his 4.41 speed to average 22.4 yards per reception. TB Brandon Payne was a versatile addition to the offense last year and was named MAC Freshman of the Year.

Offensive concerns: Three starters were lost on the line, and though coach Lee Owens thinks the replacements will help transform the group into the best he has had in six seasons at the school, they have to go out and prove his confidence is warranted.

Defensive philosophy: Akron switched to a five-man front last season in an attempt to be stronger against the run. It didn't work—the Zips allowed 4.5 yards per rush, even more than the year before. That's still the focus this year, but Owens thinks his staff is more comfortable with the scheme.

Defensive stars: CB Dwight Smith is the top player on what was the MAC's third-ranked defense last year. He is one of the strongest defensive backs in the conference with a 360-pound bench press. He also runs a 4.45 40.

Defensive concerns: The Zips are experimenting with moving CB Rich Reliford, a three-year starter, to free safety and inserting redshirt freshman Jesse Smith at his corner spot. Akron is trying to develop a better pass rush by grooming four backups to rotate with the four starters on the line.

Bottom line: Akron is standing at the brink. The Zips went from 4-7 in 1998 to 7-4 last year and were battling Marshall late in the season for the East Division title. Akron has been building for this year, when it thinks it can overtake the Thundering Herd in the East. The Zips clearly have a chance to accomplish that goal—if they can convince themselves they can play with the elite teams. MAC champions historically get great play from their quarterback, and Washington must prove he can be a great player at that position.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Jake Schifino**	**6-2**	**205**	**Jr.**
T	Jeremiah Danielson	6-2	280	Sr.
G	Paul Ondrusek	6-3	280	Jr.
C	**Scott Smith**	**6-4**	**275**	**Jr.**
G	Thomas McBride	6-4	302	Sr.
T	**Jeff Grzeskowiak**	**6-5**	**292**	**Jr.**
TE	**Tim Ritley**	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**
WR	**Lavel Bailey**	**5-10**	**180**	**Sr.**
QB	**B. Washington**	**6-0**	**210**	**Sr.**
RB	**Brandon Payne**	**5-10**	**190**	**So.**
FB	**Tony McCray**	**5-8**	**205**	**Sr.**

Defense

E	**Ade Edwards**	**6-4**	**255**	**Sr.**
E	**Derek Wilborn**	**6-0**	**225**	**Sr.**
T	Jermaine Williams	6-2	278	Sr.
T	**Chris Smith**	**6-3**	**270**	**Jr.**
LB	Ed March	6-0	225	Jr.
LB	David Polk	6-2	215	Sr.
LB	Brad King	5-11	210	Sr.
CB	**Rich Reliford**	**5-9**	**185**	**Sr.**
SS	**Mike Hughes**	**6-1**	**200**	**Sr.**
FS	Brad Detwiler	5-10	191	Jr.
CB	**Dwight Smith**	**5-11**	**200**	**Sr.**

Special Teams

K	**Zac Derr**	**5-8**	**150**	**Jr.**
P	Mike Delaney	6-2	225	Jr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

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3 Miami

REDHAWKS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 76

Coach: Terry Hoeppner (7-4, 1 year)
1999 record: 7-4. MAC East: 6-2/2nd
Site: Oxford, Ohio
Stadium: Yager (grass, 30,012).
Last league title: 1986

SCHEDULE

S2—at Vanderbilt
S9—at Eastern Michigan
S16—at Ohio State
S23—Kent
S30—at Akron
O7—Ball State
O14—Bowling Green
O28—at Cincinnati
N4—Ohio
N11—at Marshall
N18—at Buffalo

Offensive philosophy: The RedHawks have tried to incorporate more of a passing game into their run-oriented attack to achieve more balance—coach Terry Hoeppner dubbed it the Mid-West Coast Offense—but powering the ball straight ahead is still their preferred method of operation.
Offensive stars: QB Mike Bath is steady if not spectacular, ranking 22nd in the nation last season in passing efficiency. Sly Johnson provides a big-play threat at wide receiver. He was on his way to a big season last year, averaging 119 yards receiving per game, before he tore the anterior cruciate ligament in a knee in the fourth game. He is expected to make a healthy return.
Offensive concerns: The biggest question is who will replace TB Travis Prentice. Steve Little has been groomed for the job for two years but has just 257 yards on 60 carries the past two seasons. The RedHawks face a retooling project on the line, where Alex Sulfsted, Phil Hawk and Joe Costello were asked to cut some weight in order to be more effective.
Defensive philosophy: The RedHawks want their perimeter defenders—the outside linebackers and ends—to be active and aggressive. The safeties are as active in this defensive scheme as any others in the MAC.
Defensive stars: DT Andy Aracri is a tireless worker who went from a walk-on to an All-MAC performer. He is especially good at disrupting plays in the backfield. The line is the strength of the team, and it should be fortified by the addition of end Phil Smith, who will bring an element of speed to the field. Brandon Godsey's versatility should help the secondary.
Defensive concerns: Linebacker has been a position of strength for a long time at Miami, but not this year. Hoeppner said before spring practice that the play of MLB Nick Monk could determine how well the defense performs this season. Monk tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in April, and his playing status is uncertain.
Bottom line: Miami's 1998 and '99 teams were its best in more than a decade, and it still couldn't overcome Marshall in the East Division. And the RedHawks don't appear to be as strong this season. With the emergence of Akron and with Marshall expected to be solid again, Miami likely will slip back a notch to battle Bowling Green and Ohio for third place in the East.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Sly Johnson	5-9	182	Sr.
T	**Alex Sulfsted**	**6-5**	**300**	**Sr.**
G	Brian Luebke	6-6	305	Sr.
C	Jeremy Lee	6-4	272	Jr.
G	Phil Hawk	6-5	313	Jr.
T	**Joe Costello**	**6-6**	**314**	**Jr.**
TE	**Mike Sullivan**	**6-4**	**257**	**Sr.**
WR	Jason Branch	6-6	209	So.
QB	**Mike Bath**	**6-2**	**225**	**Sr.**
RB	Julian Goodman	6-2	242	Jr.
RB	Steve Little	5-10	206	Jr.

Defense

E	**Bob Petrovic**	**6-5**	**251**	**Jr.**
E	**Brian Potter**	**6-2**	**251**	**Jr.**
T	**Andy Aracri**	**6-1**	**279**	**Sr.**
T	Ryan Terry	6-2	307	So.
OLB	Robert Jordan	6-2	224	Sr.
MLB	**Nick Monk**	**6-0**	**238**	**Sr.**
OLB	Gary Richardson	6-3	204	So.
CB	**Michael Adams**	**5-8**	**186**	**Sr.**
SS	**Brandon Godsey**	**5-11**	**201**	**Sr.**
FS	Jacob Yavasile	5-10	188	Sr.
CB	DeMarrio Jones	5-11	189	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Andy Brumbergs**	**6-5**	**217**	**So.**
P	**Kent McCullough**	**6-2**	**212**	**Sr.**

Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

4 Ohio

BOBCATS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 91

Coach: Jim Grobe (26-29-1, 5 years)
1999 record: 5-6. MAC East: 5-3/T3rd
Site: Athens, Ohio
Stadium: Peden (20,000)
Last league title: 1968

SCHEDULE

A31—at Iowa State
S9—at Minnesota
S16—Tennessee Tech
S23—Akron
S30—at W. Michigan
O7—Buffalo
O14—at Kent
O21—Central Michigan
N4—at Miami
N11—at Bowling Green
N18—Marshall

Offensive philosophy: Ohio wants to have a balanced offense, but it has been difficult to achieve that ideal. The Bobcats have been one of the top rushing teams in the country with their triple-option attack, utilizing counters and straight-ahead runs. The offense is tough for opposing defenses because they rarely face other teams that run it.
Offensive stars: Dontrell Jackson was a perfect fit for Ohio's offense last year. He was the only true freshman quarterback starter in the country. He has some throwing ability, but his true value is as a shifty runner. RB Raynald Ray is the best player in the program. He has outstanding speed and running ability and is a threat catching the ball. G Nick Glowacki is a mobile 310-pounder who can flatten opponents.
Offensive concerns: Ohio struggles every year with its passing game. The Bobcats don't throw a lot, and when they do, they're ineffective. The Bobcats were the worst team in the MAC in passing percentage (.444) and lack the ability to stretch defenses with any kind of vertical passing game.
Defensive philosophy: Ohio runs the 50 defense, which is an attacking, movement-oriented alignment. The Bobcats are constantly moving up front to try to disguise what they are doing. Instead of playing smash-mouth football, they rely on small, quick athletes and do a lot of slanting up front.
Defensive stars: ILBs Tom Weilbacher and Matt Spitler were impact players last season after transferring to Ohio. Weilbacher is a crunching hitter, and Spitler showed a lot of toughness. SS Chris London is another big hitter who covers a lot of ground. Junior P Dave Zastudil has been an effective weapon. He led the MAC in punting each of his first two seasons.
Defensive concerns: E Mike Fox was a 1999 starter who added size and quickness up front. He looks to make a healthy return this season after missing spring practice because of offseason shoulder surgery. Ohio has been strong against the run, but it has to improve against the pass.
Bottom line: The Bobcats have the makings of a prolific rushing attack, which should allow them to make a strong push for a finish as high as second in the East Division. They aren't quite ready to challenge for the top of the standings, but they have enough talent to battle Akron, Miami and Bowling Green for second place behind Marshall.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Joe Mohler	6-3	200	So.
T	Chris Jackson	6-4	300	So.
G	**Nick Glowacki**	**6-6**	**310**	**Jr.**
C	Doug Wooten	6-1	280	So.
G	**Zach Holt**	**6-3**	**280**	**Sr.**
T	Erik Grahovac	6-4	285	So.
TE	Chris Knaack	6-3	240	Jr.
WR	**Raynald Ray**	**5-11**	**200**	**Sr.**
QB	**Dontrell Jackson**	**5-11**	**175**	**So.**
RB	**Chad Brinker**	**5-11**	**190**	**So.**
FB	**Joe Sherrill**	**6-1**	**215**	**So.**

Defense

E	**Mike Fox**	**6-4**	**270**	**Jr.**
E	Art Adams	6-4	250	Sr.
NG	Damion Washington	6-2	295	Sr.
OLB	**Greg Baskin**	**6-2**	**230**	**Jr.**
ILB	Matt Spitler	6-3	240	Sr.
ILB	**Tom Weilbacher**	**6-0**	**235**	**So.**
OLB	Trendale Perkins	6-2	220	Jr.
CB	**Bop White**	**6-0**	**175**	**So.**
SS	**Chris London**	**5-10**	**200**	**Jr.**
FS	Joe Sellers	5-10	190	So.
CB	**Donnie White**	**5-10**	**190**	**Sr.**

Special Teams

K	**Kevin Kerr**	**6-0**	**170**	**So.**
P	**Dave Zastudil**	**6-4**	**230**	**Jr.**

Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 Bowling Green

FALCONS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 106

Coach: Gary Blackney (58-41-2, 9 years)
1999 record: 5-6. MAC East: 3-5/5th
Site: Bowling Green, Ohio
Stadium: Doyt L. Perry (grass, 30,599)
Last league title: 1992

SCHEDULE

S2—at Michigan
S9—Pittsburgh
S16—at Temple
S23—at Buffalo
S30—at Kent
O7—Akron
O14—at Miami
O21—Eastern Michigan
N4—Marshall
N11—Ohio
N22—at Toledo

Offensive philosophy: The offense will be tweaked this year as former Ohio coach Tom Lichtenberg takes over as offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach. Lichtenberg likely will try to develop a ball-control attack. The Falcons have steady but not flashy players to build around on offense.

Offensive stars: Bowling Green will look to sophomore QB Andy Sahm to continue to mature after he started the last half of last season. WR Kurt Gerling was the MAC's Freshman of the Year in 1998 and was Bowling Green's MVP last season when he caught 53 passes for 775 yards.

Offensive concerns: Fullback and tight end are two key blocking positions in this offense, and the Falcons must replace players at each spot. FB Eric Clark and TE Jason Van Dam will get the first shots to fill those jobs. Bowling Green must find three new offensive line starters, but that has been a position of strength during the past few recruiting seasons.

Defensive philosophy: Bowling Green depends heavily on its front seven to control the line of scrimmage. The Falcons want their linebackers to make plays. Bowling Green doesn't blitz a lot, preferring to rely on the players being assignment sharp.

Defensive stars: Senior NG Brandon Hicks emerged last season as one of the team's strongest leaders, and he shared MVP honors on defense. With LBs Khary Campbell and Garry Fisher offering solid experience, the defensive front seven could be as talented as Bowling Green has had in several years. The linemen combine solid experience with good athleticism.

Defensive concerns: The secondary has been a sore spot for a long time. For the Falcons to be better than OK on defense this season, they must find two cornerbacks who won't hurt them. Karl Rose and Ken Dobbs will get the first chance to prove they can play.

Bottom line: Bowling Green has to improve its fundamental skills in order to challenge for a spot in the upper half of the East Division. The Falcons must shed their sloppiness in terms of taking care of the ball on offense, and they have to tackle a lot better on defense than they did last season. The Falcons haven't been as aggressive on both sides of the ball as they were several years ago, and that will be a renewed emphasis this year.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Kurt Gerling**	**6-2**	**195**	**Jr.**
T	**Rob Fehrman**	**6-7**	**300**	**Sr.**
G	Mike Bodnar	6-3	290	Jr.
C	Eric Curl	6-2	280	Sr.
G	Greg Kupke	6-3	255	So.
T	Eric Gilbo	6-7	310	Sr.
TE	*Jason Van Dam	6-6	240	Fr.
WR	Aaron Alexander	6-0	195	Jr.
QB	**Andy Sahm**	**6-6**	**220**	**So.**
RB	Joe Alls	5-10	185	So.
FB	Eric Clark	5-10	240	Jr.

Defense

E	**Ryan Wingrove**	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**
E	**D.J. Durkin**	**6-2**	**240**	**Sr.**
T	**Malcolm Robinson**	**6-4**	**290**	**Jr.**
NG	**Brandon Hicks**	**6-2**	**250**	**Sr.**
OLB	**Khary Campbell**	**6-1**	**210**	**Jr.**
MLB	Chris Della Vella	6-1	230	Jr.
OLB	**Garry Fisher**	**5-10**	**210**	**Jr.**
CB	**Karl Rose**	**6-0**	**185**	**Jr.**
SS	**Chad Long**	**6-0**	**195**	**Jr.**
FS	Sergio Lund	6-0	185	Jr.
CB	Ken Dobbs	5-10	170	Sr.

Special Teams

K	Shaun Suisham	6-0	180	Fr.
P	**Pat Fleming**	**6-2**	**190**	**So.**

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

6 Kent

FLASHES DATA

NATIONAL RANK 110

Coach: Dean Pees (2-20, 2 years)
1999 record: 2-9. MAC East: 2-6/6th
Site: Kent, Ohio
Stadium: Dix (turf, 30,520)
Last league title: 1972

SCHEDULE

S2—at Pittsburgh
S9—at Purdue
S16—Youngstown State
S23—at Miami
S30—Bowling Green
O7—at Central Michigan
O14—Ohio
O21—at Marshall
O28—Western Michigan
N4—at Buffalo
N18—Akron .

Offensive philosophy: It wasn't unusual for Kent to throw the ball more than 40 times a game the past few seasons, partly because it emphasized the pass and partly because it often fell behind early. But beginning this year, the running game will be accentuated more.

Offensive stars: Junior RB Chante Murphy emerged last season as the team's top rushing threat, posting three 100-yard games. He has big-play capability but needs to show more consistency. Half of his 676 yards were gained in three games. Three junior receivers have starting experience, headed by the undersized Jurron Kelly.

Offensive concerns: Senior Zach Williams is the leading candidate to take over for Jose Davis at quarterback. Williams has little game experience, and his backups are an inexperienced sophomore and four redshirt freshmen. TB DeMarlo Rozier, who split time with Murphy, needs to be more productive. Nagging injuries last season limited Rozier to just 189 yards on the ground after he gained 613 as a freshman in 1998.

Defensive philosophy: Coach Dean Pees wants his team to be able to stop the run. The Golden Flashes see being stout and aggressive up front, especially after last season—they allowed 214 yards rushing per game and 4.5 yards per attempt—as the key to being better on defense.

Defensive stars: A breakdown up front was a concern in past seasons. There is no standout on the line, but Kent has developed some depth at those positions now, with eight players rotating in. OLB Rashan Hall's strong instincts helped him make 125 tackles last year.

Defensive concerns: The secondary will undergo a major facelift after losing three starters. None of the six players battling for the starting safety spots has made a significant contribution in the past. Punting was a problem a year ago. Jared Fritz, who is expected to win the job, averaged just 36.9 yards on eight kicks in part-time duty.

Bottom line: Kent thinks it can be more productive on offense behind a veteran line that returns four starters. That would help take some pressure off the defense. Even with that improvement, the Golden Flashes lag well behind the top five teams in the East Division. They'll need major improvement on both sides of the ball to challenge for fourth or fifth place in the division.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Joshua Bostick**	**6-2**	**200**	**Jr.**
T	**Cory Zwick**	**6-5**	**300**	**Sr.**
G	**Jason Hupp**	**6-3**	**315**	**Sr.**
C	**Jeff Krysiak**	**6-2**	**290**	**Sr.**
G	**Brian Hallett**	**6-4**	**300**	**Jr.**
T	Kevin Jamieson	6-3	295	So.
TE	Joel Reikowski	6-5	250	So.
WR	**Jurron Kelly**	**6-0**	**165**	**Jr.**
QB	Zach Williams	6-4	205	Sr.
RB	**Chante Murphy**	**5-11**	**210**	**Jr.**
FB	DeMarlo Rozier	5-10	205	Jr.

Defense

E	Shawn Armstead	6-4	240	So.
E	Mark Strickland	6-1	245	Jr.
T	Roy Attieh	6-2	300	So.
T	**Richard Bender**	**6-1**	**250**	**Sr.**
OLB	**Rashan Hall**	**5-11**	**210**	**Jr.**
MLB	**Matt Rayl**	**6-0**	**220**	**Sr.**
OLB	**James Harrison**	**6-1**	**245**	**Jr.**
CB	Jacon Avery	5-10	165	So.
SS	*Desmond Turner	6-0	180	Fr.
FS	Reggie Crook	6-0	180	Jr.
CB	**Justin Baugham**	**5-10**	**175**	**So.**

Special Teams

K	**Dave Pavich**	**6-1**	**165**	**Jr.**
P	Jared Fritz	6-2	185	So.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

More on college football at www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams/ AOL keyword: TSN

7 Buffalo

BULLS DATA

Coach: Craig Cirbus (17-38, 5 years)
1999 record: 0-11. MAC East: 0-8/7th
Site: Buffalo, N.Y.
Stadium: University of Buffalo (grass, 31,000)

SCHEDULE

S2—at Syracuse
S9—at Rutgers
S16—Connecticut
S23—Bowling Green
S30—at Marshall
O7—at Ohio
O21—Ball State
O28—at Northern Illinois
N4—Kent
N11—at Akron
N18—Miami

NATIONAL RANK 114

Offensive philosophy: With his experience as an offensive assistant for 11 seasons at Penn State, Craig Cirbus envisions his Bulls someday being explosive on offense. Buffalo will need more playmakers on offense for that to happen.

Offensive stars: He's no star at this point, but junior Joe Freedy established himself as the top quarterback in the program by starting all 11 games last season. Freedy was forced into the lineup because of injuries and responded by completing 51 percent of his passes. He is mobile and has a good grasp of the game. Tight end is one of the deepest positions on the team. Senior Brandon Shaughnessy, a starter since his freshman year, has greatly improved his blocking skills.

Offensive concerns: Buffalo had the most experienced offensive line in Division I-A last season, but that didn't translate into effective play. With four of those starters gone this year, the line is even more suspect. After losing all-time receiving leader Drew Haddad, the receiving corps has virtually no experience. Derrick Gordon and Bam McDonald will vie for the tailback job, but injuries have limited their effectiveness.

Defensive philosophy: The Bulls want to play an aggressive 4-3 alignment. Coaches constantly talk with their players about the toughness that is needed in order for the defense to be strong. Sound special teams play also figures into the equation. The Bulls have blocked 21 kicks since 1995.

Defensive stars: Despite losing NT Josh Stello to the offense (left guard), the Bulls should be better on the defensive line. Marcus Cole was effective last year at defensive end with 50 tackles. E Steve Fleming's quickness allowed him to make plays and be the surprise of the defense last season.

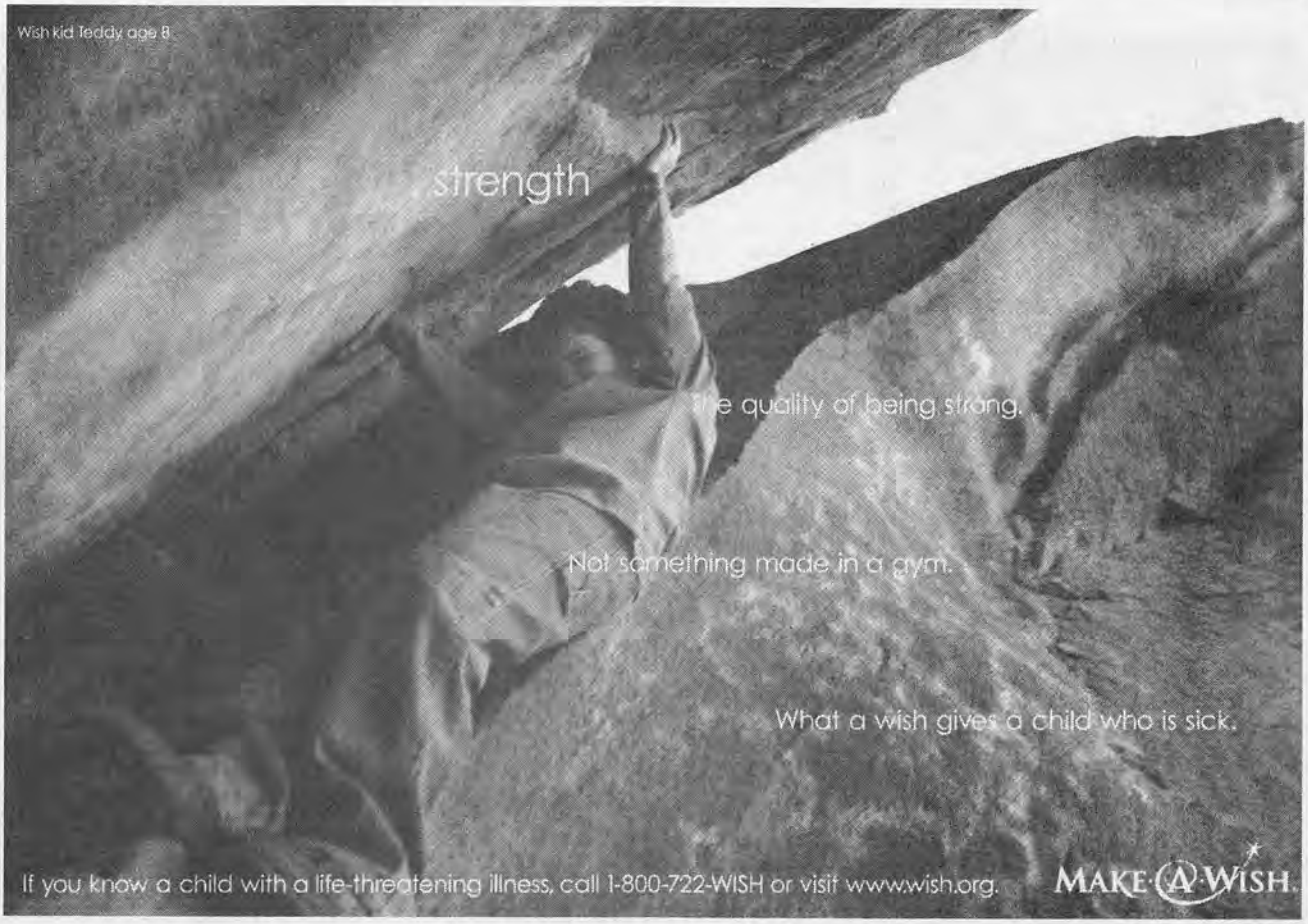
Defensive concerns: A porous secondary a year ago is in flux with several new faces and some position changes. Its best player, FS Craig Rohlfs, missed spring practice because of shoulder surgery. Tory Smith, who started at cornerback, moved to safety. Four players are vying for a starting cornerback job.

Bottom line: Buffalo learned last season that it wasn't ready to compete in Division I-A after moving up from I-AA. The Bulls aren't in much better position this season. With so many questions, they are doomed for another last-place finish in the East Division and possibly another winless season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
Offense				
WR	**Andre Forde**	**5-10**	**206**	**So.**
T	**David Pruce**	**6-8**	**293**	**Sr.**
G	**Josh Stello**	**6-2**	**309**	**Sr.**
C	Matt Baniewicz	6-0	260	So.
G	**Gabe Kogler**	**6-1**	**290**	**Sr.**
T	Tim Hedges	6-5	307	Jr.
TE	B. Shaughnessy	6-2	254	Sr.
WR	Dahnel Singfield	6-0	171	Jr.
QB	**Joe Freedy**	**6-2**	**194**	**Jr.**
RB	**Bam McDonald**	**5-9**	**177**	**So.**
FB	Joe McKoy	5-11	252	Sr.
Defense				
E	Steve Fleming	6-4	245	So.
E	**Marcus Cole**	**6-1**	**238**	**Sr.**
T	Kyle Kampf	6-1	302	So.
T	**Bob Dzvonick**	**6-1**	**260**	**Jr.**
OLB	Kulaa Bacheyie	6-0	217	Sr.
MLB	**Brandon Jordan**	**5-10**	**208**	**Jr.**
OLB	**Chris Shelly**	**6-1**	**227**	**Jr.**
CB	Mike Lambert	5-8	195	So.
SS	**Tory Smith**	**5-11**	**200**	**Sr.**
FS	**Craig Rohlfs**	**5-10**	**192**	**Jr.**
CB	**Carlos Spencer**	**5-7**	**180**	**Sr.**
Special Teams				
K	Scott Keller	5-8	156	Sr.
P	Mike Masucci	6-0	226	Sr.

***Returning starters in bold * Redshirt**



100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Toledo

ROCKETS DATA

Coach: Gary Pinkel (63-36-3, 9 years)
1999 record: 6-5. MAC West: 5-3/T2nd
Site: Toledo, Ohio
Stadium: Glass Bowl (turf, 26,248)
Last league title: 1995

NATIONAL RANK 56

SCHEDULE

S2—at Penn State
S9—Weber State
S16—Eastern Illinois
S23—at W. Michigan
S30—Central Michigan
O7—at Eastern Michigan
O14—Marshall
O28—at Navy
N4—at Northern Illinois
N11—Ball State
N22—Bowling Green

Offensive philosophy: Toledo likes to control the tempo of games with a perennially strong running game, but its multiple offense is designed to be balanced, and there are quality receivers for the passing game. Toledo is one of the few MAC teams that utilizes the tight end in the passing attack.
Offensive stars: QB Tavares Bolden has made only seven career starts, but he is a talented playmaker. Consistency is what Bolden lacks, but when he finds it, look out. Chester Taylor, the best running back in the MAC, showed some toughness last year by gaining 1,176 yards despite playing much of the season with two sprained ankles. He has breakaway speed and unlimited potential. T Jim Harding and G Michael Schaefer are unheralded but top-level linemen.
Offensive concerns: As talented as Bolden is and as much poise as he showed in '99, he's still largely unproven. And Toledo's production at tight end slumped last year when Mike Bilik was injured. Inexperienced sophomores Jason Spiece and Greg Grothous will have to improve the position.
Defensive philosophy: The Rockets use a multiple 4-4 defense that gives offenses a look they don't see every week. The alignment puts players on the edge—the ends and outside linebackers—in position to use their speed to produce difference-making plays.
Defensive stars: End DeJuan Goulde and ILB Kevin Rollins are All-MAC players who are singled out every week in the opposition's game-planning. They combined to make 21 sacks and 35 tackles for loss last season. Rollins is a bit undersized at 225 pounds, but he's strong and fast (4.49 in the 40).
Defensive concerns: The secondary has the least experience of any position on defense. Junior FS Andy Boyd is the leader of the group, but he missed spring practice after having surgery on both shoulders. Seven players are in contention for the starting cornerback jobs.
Bottom line: Toledo was a team on the rise as the 1999 season ended. The Rockets won their last three games, including an impressive 45-21 rout of West Division champion Western Michigan in the final game. With 20 starters back, the Rockets are poised to win the West Division—and maybe finally unseat Marshall as the overall conference champion after losing to the Thundering Herd in the '97 and '98 MAC championship games.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Mel Long**	**6-2**	**192**	**Sr.**
T	Noah Swartz	6-6	305	So.
G	Chris Tuminello	6-3	288	So.
C	**Nick Otterbacher**	**6-1**	**280**	**Jr.**
G	**Matt Comer**	**6-3**	**285**	**Jr.**
T	**Jim Harding**	**6-7**	**305**	**Sr.**
TE	Jason Spiece	6-3	230	Jr.
WR	Miquel Irvin	6-2	185	So.
QB	**Tavares Bolden**	**6-1**	**205**	**Jr.**
RB	**Chester Taylor**	**5-11**	**195**	**Sr.**
RB	**Lyle Green**	**6-1**	**216**	**Sr.**

Defense

E	David Bockmore	6-4	245	Jr.
E	**DeJuan Goulde**	**6-1**	**245**	**Sr.**
T	Phil Gibson	6-2	275	Jr.
T	**Jake McLean**	**6-4**	**275**	**Jr.**
OLB	Corey Morris	6-0	200	Jr.
ILB	David Gardner	6-3	237	So.
ILB	**Kevin Rollins**	**6-2**	**225**	**Sr.**
OLB	**Ira Singleton**	**6-1**	**205**	**Sr.**
CB	**Jehu Anderson**	**6-1**	**188**	**So.**
FS	**Andy Boyd**	**6-1**	**200**	**Jr.**
CB	Fabian Burke	5-11	183	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Todd France**	**6-3**	**185**	**Jr.**
P	**John Manly**	**6-2**	**180**	**So.**

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

2 Northern Ill.

HUSKIES DATA

Coach: Joe Novak (8-36, 4 years)
1999 record: 5-6. MAC West: 5-3/T2nd
Site: DeKalb, Ill.
Stadium: Huskie (turf, 31,000)
Last league title: 1983

NATIONAL RANK 63

SCHEDULE

A31—at Northwestern
S9—Illinois State
S23—at Auburn
S30—at Ball State
O7—Central Florida
O14—at Akron
O21—at W. Michigan
O28—Buffalo
N4—Toledo
N11—at Eastern Michigan
N18—Central Michigan

Offensive philosophy: Coach Joe Novak favors a conservative, balanced approach. The Huskies want to line up, get a helmet on each defender, churn out yards on the ground and mix in the pass just enough to keep defenses from putting eight players in the box.
Offensive stars: WR Justin McCareins emerged as a standout in 1998 after playing for a season in the shadow of former standout receiver Deon Mitchell. But even with back-to-back strong seasons, McCareins still doesn't get his due. NIU has one of the top 1-2 tailback combos in the MAC in William Andrews and Ivory Bryant. T Ryan Diem combines power (800-pound squat lift) and speed (5.08 in the 40).
Offensive concerns: The Huskies have to find a backup quarterback for Chris Finlen, who shared starts with Frisman Jackson last year. Finlen eventually won the job, and Jackson transferred to Western Illinois. Dan Urban and Craig Harmon will be on the spot if Finlen needs help. The Huskies must become a more efficient passing team, particularly on third down.
Defensive philosophy: The Huskies depend on their linebackers and safeties to chase down the ball and get high tackle numbers in their 4-3 alignment. The defense funnels the ball to those players. Last year's safeties, Donnavan Carter and Jermaine Hampton, combined to make 251 tackles.
Defensive stars: SS Hampton is the best tackler on the team, and CB Benji Peacock is the best playmaker. NT Darian Tate is a strong inside run-stuffer who has to have a good year for the defense to be effective. The linebackers are an unheralded but effective group with good toughness. Kevin Selover inside and Cameron Saulsby outside run well and can pursue the ball.
Defensive concerns: A hole was left in the line when T Lamain Rucker left the team for personal reasons, and E Jon Lovrich decided to concentrate on wrestling. That means junior college transfers Jon Peters (end) and Rashad Walker (tackle) must play well right away. Punting is a question mark.
Bottom line: Since being hired in 1995, Novak has built his program brick by brick. After several lean years, the Huskies are in position this season to play with the top teams in the West Division. They are probably a step behind Toledo in challenging for the division crown. But with 19 returning starters, a few breaks is all they will need to surprise the Rockets and win the title.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Darrell Hill**	**6-4**	**197**	**Sr.**
T	**Tim Vincent**	**6-6**	**284**	**So.**
G	**Kyle Jakubek**	**6-3**	**280**	**Sr.**
C	**McAllister Collins**	**6-2**	**300**	**Sr.**
G	**Matt Cockrum**	**6-5**	**282**	**Sr.**
T	**Ryan Diem**	**6-7**	**336**	**Sr.**
TE	Joey Reed	6-6	247	Jr.
WR	**Justin McCareins**	**6-3**	**204**	**Sr.**
QB	**Chris Finlen**	**6-3**	**213**	**Jr.**
RB	Thomas Hammock	5-9	202	So.
FB	Alan Rood	6-0	248	Jr.

Defense

E	**Lewis Miskowicz**	**6-2**	**272**	**Sr.**
E	**Trent Clemen**	**6-4**	**242**	**Jr.**
T	**Darian Tate**	**6-4**	**277**	**Jr.**
NT	Rashad Walker	6-3	272	Jr.
OLB	**Cameron Saulsby**	**6-1**	**233**	**Sr.**
MLB	**Kevin Selover**	**6-3**	**227**	**Sr.**
OLB	**Larry Williams**	**5-11**	**226**	**So.**
CB	Demerist Whitfield	5-11	172	So.
SS	**Jermaine Hampton**	**6-1**	**207**	**Sr.**
FS	Buster Sampson	5-9	184	Sr.
CB	**Benji Peacock**	**5-7**	**171**	**Sr.**

Special Teams

K	*Steve Azar	5-7	183	Fr.
P	Jason Hogrefe	6-5	210	So.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

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3 Western Mich.

BRONCOS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 83

Coach: Gary Darnell (22-12, 3 years; 25-16 overall, 4 years)
1999 record: 7-5. MAC West: 6-2/1st
Site: Kalamazoo, Mich.
Stadium: Waldo (grass, 30,200)
Last league title: 1988

SCHEDULE

A31—at Wisconsin
S9—at Iowa
S16—Indiana State
S23—Toledo
S30—Ohio
O5—at Marshall
O21—Northern Illinois
O28—at Kent
N4—at Ball State
N11—at Central Michigan
N18—Eastern Michigan

Offensive philosophy: The Broncos like to use a lot of one-back and no-back alignments to get the defense spread out and then attack the open seams. Their small but quick and elusive receivers are especially adept at getting open and running for big yardage after the catch.

Offensive stars: Steve Neal is the best of a talented group of receivers. A senior, Neal overcame injuries early in his career to become the school's all-time leader in receiving yards (2,751), receptions (168) and touchdowns (24). Robert Sanford is one of the top running backs in the MAC, a combination of strength, quickness and durability. He has rushed for 1,000 yards twice. K Brad Selent, a former MAC special teams player of the year, has three game-winning kicks in the closing seconds during his career.

Offensive concerns: The Broncos must find a quarterback to replace Tim Lester, who broke 17 school and six MAC passing records. Heir apparent Jeff Welsh played in 12 quarters in 1997, redshirted in '98 and threw just five passes last season. Coach Gary Darnell likes Welsh's composure, but he has to prove he can be an every-down player.

Defensive philosophy: Western Michigan tries to be aggressive up front with its 4-3 defense. The Broncos are at their best when their linemen can put strong pressure on the quarterback.

Defensive stars: Mario Evans made a successful move from weak to strong linebacker last season and ranked second on the team with 107 tackles. He is one of the most difficult linebackers to block in the MAC. CB Rashad McDade is one of the speediest defensive backs in the league. He is especially adept in single coverage.

Defensive concerns: The front seven gave up a lot of big plays last season, so improvement in that area is a must if the Broncos are to contend in the West Division. The defensive linemen, as a group, are short on experience, with only Scott Karstens and Marty Harig getting extensive playing time in the past.

Bottom line: Had Lester returned, the Broncos would be the favorite to win the MAC championship. But he's gone, so all bets are off. Welsh has a lot of weapons available to him, but if he doesn't play consistently well, the Broncos can't become a championship contender.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Steve Neal**	**6-0**	**187**	**Sr.**
T	Paul Lambert	6-3	287	Sr.
G	**Jeff Hinson**	**6-2**	**263**	**Jr.**
C	**Colin Greczek**	**6-4**	**285**	**Sr.**
G	Jake Gasaway	6-3	256	So.
T	**Matt Stover**	**6-3**	**274**	**Jr.**
TE	Mobolaji Afariogun	6-3	228	So.
WR	**Corey Alston**	**6-1**	**212**	**Sr.**
QB	Jeff Welsh	6-3	208	Jr.
RB	**Robert Sanford**	**5-11**	**223**	**Sr.**
FB	**Scott Selzer**	**6-0**	**245**	**Sr.**

Defense

E	**Scott Karstens**	**6-3**	**245**	**Sr.**
E	Jared Pike	6-0	235	Sr.
T	Larry Charleston	6-5	265	Sr.
NG	**Marty Harig**	**6-3**	**270**	**Sr.**
OLB	**Terrence Moore**	**6-3**	**205**	**Sr.**
ILB	Garrett Soldano	6-0	235	Sr.
ILB	**Mario Evans**	**6-0**	**226**	**Sr.**
CB	Ronald Rogers	5-9	175	Jr.
SS	Wes Dodson	5-10	178	Jr.
FS	Jermaine Lewis	6-5	200	So.
CB	Joe Ballard	6-0	185	So.

Special Teams

K	Brad Selent	5-11	184	Sr.
P	Matt Steffen	6-0	235	So.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

4 Central Mich.

CHIPPEWAS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 95

Coach: Mike DeBord (1st season)
1999 record: 4-7. MAC West: 3-5/5th
Site: Mount Pleasant, Mich.
Stadium: Kelly-Shorts (turf, 30,199)
Last league title: 1994

SCHEDULE

S2—at Purdue
S9—Akron
S16—at Wyoming
S23—Boise State
S30—at Toledo
O7—Kent
O21—at Ohio
O28—Ball State
N4—at Eastern Michigan
N11—Western Michigan
N18—at Northern Illinois

Offensive philosophy: Central Michigan probably will take on some of the same characteristics as Michigan. Former Wolverines offensive coordinator Mike DeBord took over as the Chippewas' new coach last December. At Michigan, he ran a multiple offense with an emphasis on the run and solid execution.

Offensive stars: QB Pete Shepherd isn't flashy, but he's steady and has two years of starting experience. Shepherd has a strong arm and is known for his competitive nature. WR Jammarl O'Neal earned third-team freshman All-American honors last season. His excellent speed and good hands helped him catch 59 passes for 1,085 yards and six touchdowns. The strength of the offense might be on the line, where four starters return. T Matt Brayton combines great size (6-7, 305) with strong athletic ability.

Offensive concerns: The biggest question is who will run the ball now that workhorse RB Eric Flowers is gone. Vince Webber appears to be the heir apparent, but his first two seasons have been marked by injuries.

Defensive philosophy: The Chippewas want to be strong at the point of attack. They have a solid secondary, but they want to be more stout up front after allowing 4.2 yards per rush last season. Look for the linebackers to be more active this season.

Defensive stars: Brian Leigeb is entering his fourth season as the starter at free safety. He is the glue that holds the secondary together, having led the defense in tackles each of the past three seasons. Darvin Lewis and Abdullah Muhammad form a potent 1-2 punch at linebacker. Their athletic ability and speed make them a threat to be a lethal tandem.

Defensive concerns: CB Tedaro France needs to bounce back this season. He wasn't as aggressive last year as he was in 1998, when he earned All-MAC second-team status as a freshman. Finding bodies on the line is a must after the departures of four ends and two tackles.

Bottom line: DeBord has brought a different attitude to this program. The first thing he did last winter was improve the players' strength and conditioning. He also brings a tougher attitude. When DeBord steps on the field, he means business. That won't guarantee more wins for the Chippewas this season, but they have a chance to contend for second place in the West Division.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Jammarl O'Neal**	**6-1**	**175**	**So.**
T	**Matt Brayton**	**6-7**	**305**	**Jr.**
G	James Alexander	6-4	270	Sr.
C	**Anders Hill**	**6-5**	**280**	**Jr.**
G	Kyle Croskey	6-3	290	So.
T	Paul Brieger	6-4	290	So.
TE	Eric Salani	6-3	240	Sr.
WR	**David Hannah**	**5-10**	**180**	**Sr.**
QB	**Pete Shepherd**	**6-1**	**200**	**Sr.**
RB	Vince Webber	5-9	205	So.
FB	D.J. McClure	5-10	225	Sr.

Defense

E	Matt Reynolds	6-3	235	So.
E	*Cullen Jenkins	6-2	225	Fr.
T	Marvin Smith	6-1	255	So.
NT	Dominic Mancini	6-3	250	So.
OLB	Casey Laughlin	6-2	220	Sr.
MLB	**Darvin Lewis**	**6-3**	**210**	**So.**
OLB	**Ralph Sewell**	**6-1**	**185**	**Sr.**
CB	**Tedaro France**	**5-10**	**170**	**Jr.**
SS	**Rodrico Epps**	**5-10**	**175**	**Jr.**
FS	**Brian Leigeb**	**6-2**	**185**	**Sr.**
CB	Wayne Dudley	5-11	170	Jr.

Special Teams

K	*Adam Clyne	6-1	170	Fr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5 Eastern Mich.

EAGLES DATA

NATIONAL RANK 99

Coach: Jeff Woodruff (1st season)
1999 record: 4-7. MAC West: 4-4/3rd
Site: Ypsilanti, Mich.
Stadium: Rynearson (turf, 30,200)
Last league title: 1987

SCHEDULE

S2—Connecticut
S9—Miami
S16—at South Carolina
S23—at Temple
S30—Central Florida
O7—Toledo
O14—at Ball State
O21—at Bowling Green
N4—Central Michigan
N11—Northern Illinois
N18—at W. Michigan

Offensive philosophy: Look for new coach Jeff Woodruff to change the emphasis from the pass to the run. With four returning starters on the line and Woodruff's background as running backs coach at Arizona, the 909 yards rushing the Eagles had last season—won't be acceptable.

Offensive stars: Senior QB Walt Church, the MAC's co-freshman of the year in 1996, owns three school passing records, and several more are within reach. That's saying something because the school produced Detroit Lions QB Charlie Batch. Toller Starnes was among the MAC's field-goal percentage leaders last season, making 17-of-21 kicks for an 81 percent conversion rate.

Offensive concerns: The running game must improve. Eric Powell returns after leading the team with 583 yards, and Reggie Gage managed 343. The Eagles lacked power and explosiveness on the ground, averaging a MAC-worst 2.6 yards per rush. Eastern Michigan's list of eight returning lettermen at wide receiver and tight end is deceiving because the top two pass catchers, who combined for 92 receptions and 1,420 yards last year, are gone.

Defensive philosophy: Eastern Michigan played a 50 defense the past four seasons but will switch to a pro-style 4-3 under Woodruff. Eastern blitzed about 50 percent of the time in the past but won't do as much blitzing in the 4-3, relying instead on being quicker to the ball.

Defensive stars: The starting linebacker duo of Scott Russell and Jason Short, who started the past two seasons, gives the Eagles experience and production. They combined to make 202 tackles last year. OLB Kenny Philpot was a playmaker with 20 tackles for loss and six sacks. E Nik Buckmeier and T Jeremaine Kyles combined for 18 tackles for loss.

Defensive concerns: The secondary will be minus three starters from last season, but the unit should be helped by the return of Clifton Robinson at one of the safety positions. Robinson was a three-year starter at linebacker before missing last year with an ankle injury.

Bottom line: Woodruff is demanding more accountability from his players. Special emphasis has been placed on discipline and organization on the field. But talent still wins games, and the Eagles don't have enough across the board to be a factor in the West Division race.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kenny Christian	6-1	198	Jr.
T	**John Grabowski**	**6-6**	**300**	**Jr.**
G	**Luis Garcia**	**6-1**	**297**	**Sr.**
C	**Cory Annett**	**6-2**	**296**	**Jr.**
G	Chuck Butkowski	6-3	286	Jr.
T	**Craig Cipa**	**6-5**	**283**	**Sr.**
TE	**Matt Kelly**	**6-3**	**246**	**Sr.**
WR	Erik Ibom	6-1	202	Jr.
WR	Jamal Stevens	5-11	182	Jr.
QB	**Walter Church**	**6-4**	**225**	**Sr.**
RB	Eric Powell	5-10	218	Jr.

Defense

E	**Hammond Russell**	**6-1**	**308**	**So.**
E	**Jeremaine Kyles**	**6-2**	**285**	**Sr.**
T	**James Turner**	**6-1**	**272**	**Sr.**
NG	**Nik Buckmeier**	**6-3**	**272**	**Jr.**
OLB	**Kenny Philpot**	**6-1**	**238**	**Jr.**
ILB	**Scott Russell**	**6-1**	**231**	**Jr.**
OLB	**Jason Short**	**6-4**	**227**	**Sr.**
CB	Andrae Brooks	6-1	192	Jr.
SS	**London Lindsey**	**5-9**	**190**	**Jr.**
FS	Rickey Scott	6-2	203	Jr.
CB	Brandon Lewis	5-6	188	Sr.

Special Teams

K	Toller Starnes	5-7	197	Jr.
P	Nick Avondet	6-0	177	Sr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

6 Ball State

CARDINALS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 109

Coach: Bill Lynch (21-35, 5 years; 57-47-3 overall, 10 years)
1999 record: 0-11. MAC West: 0-8/6th
Site: Muncie, Ind.
Stadium: Ball State (grass, 21,581)
Last league title: 1996

SCHEDULE

S2—at Florida
S9—Western Illinois
S16—at Kansas State
S30—Northern Illinois
O7—at Miami
O14—Eastern Michigan
O21—at Buffalo
O28—at Central Michigan
N4—Western Michigan
N11—at Toledo
N18—Connecticut

Offensive philosophy: Ball State revamped its offense last year, throwing out its traditional two-back set for a one-back look. It didn't work—the Cardinals were one of the worst offensive teams in the country. But they're sticking with their plan this year, hoping more maturity will mean a better performance on the field.

Offensive stars: The coaching staff likes the potential of RB Nick Dunbar, who led the team with 590 yards rushing last season. He's a north-south runner who isn't afraid to deliver a hit before he takes one.

Offensive concerns: Brian Conn started all of last season at quarterback with mixed results. After throwing erratically the first half of the season, he settled down in the last five games. But he must be more consistent this year in order for the offense to improve. The Cardinals' offensive line was the biggest in the MAC in 1999, but big didn't mean better. With four starters back, this group must improve.

Defensive philosophy: Ball State is coming off its first full season using a 4-4 defense after scrapping its 4-3 alignment midway through the '98 season. The Cardinals are undersized up front, but an improvement in team speed at all positions this season should help them get to the ball better.

Defensive stars: Sunungura Rusununguko is a tackle/end who could be a dominating presence on the line. A history of injuries has limited his effectiveness. The Cardinals have experience at the single safety position in Jade Winchell and Pete Smith. Both have been starters. Winchell was a sure tackler as a freshman in 1999.

Defensive concerns: Being small, especially in the line, was a major problem for the Cardinals the past two years. Their young players who were force-fed into action have had a chance to grow and mature, and now they will be counted on to make plays. Ball State is somewhat suspect at cornerback, especially with no proven player opposite Steve Monson, who showed some positive signs while starting the last half of '99 as a true freshman.

Bottom line: After going 0-11 last year and 1-10 in '98, progress will be measured in small steps this season. The Cardinals will have all they can handle to avoid the West Division cellar, but a more favorable schedule should allow them to win at least three games and be competitive in three others.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jermaine Jordan	6-2	197	Sr.
T	**Aaron Johnson**	**6-5**	**310**	**Sr.**
G	David Miller	6-3	315	So.
C	**Jeff Thiel**	**6-4**	**305**	**Sr.**
G	**Chad Ludwig**	**6-3**	**310**	**Sr.**
T	**John Moore**	**6-6**	**310**	**Jr.**
TE	Doug Nelson	6-5	261	Sr.
WR	Sean Schembra	5-11	185	So.
QB	**Brian Conn**	**6-2**	**211**	**Jr.**
RB	**Nick Dunbar**	**5-10**	**194**	**So.**
FB	**Scott Volk**	**5-11**	**228**	**So.**

Defense

E	**Rachman Crable**	**6-3**	**243**	**Jr.**
E	Rob Mayzer	6-3	255	So.
T	**Mark Zackery**	**5-11**	**262**	**Jr.**
T	**S. Rusununguko**	**6-2**	**248**	**Sr.**
OLB	Nate Andrews	5-10	197	Sr.
ILB	Allen Lidy	6-0	252	Jr.
ILB	**Shaka Johnson**	**5-11**	**225**	**Jr.**
OLB	Vernard Alsberry	6-0	198	Jr.
CB	Steve Monson	5-10	175	So.
S	**Jade Winchell**	**5-10**	**193**	**So.**
CB	Chickaro Martin	5-10	164	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Thomas Pucke**	**5-10**	**205**	**Jr.**
P	*Phil Cunningham	6-3	190	Fr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

SCOUTING THE BIG WEST

Formation of Sun Belt means sun is setting on the Big West

CONFERENCE RANK 11

By Derek Samson

The sun is setting on Big West football. And the sun can be blamed for it. The Sun Belt, that is.

The Big West is finished sponsoring football after this season because only one team will be left. The Sun Belt will start playing football with seven teams in 2001, stealing four of those—Idaho, Arkansas State, New Mexico State and North Texas—from the Big West. Nevada already has left for the WAC, and Boise State will follow in 2001. That leaves Utah State with no conference. The Aggies will become an independent in 2001 after turning down the Sun Belt's invitation.

Ascending: New Mexico State. Coach Tony Samuel has instilled hope. Last year, the Aggies went 6-5 with wins at New Mexico and Arizona State. New Mexico State is flourishing—by Aggie standards—in Samuel's Power-I system. The Big West struggled to stop NMSU's smash-mouth style, but the Aggies failed to stop many foes, too.

Descending: Utah State. The Aggies won this conference in 1997 but have fallen fast, and now their future is cloudy. Mick Dennehy is the third coach in four years at Utah State. Dennehy brings the wide-open passing attack he used in four seasons at Montana. And the Aggies' plans to plug along as an unstable independent seem unwise.

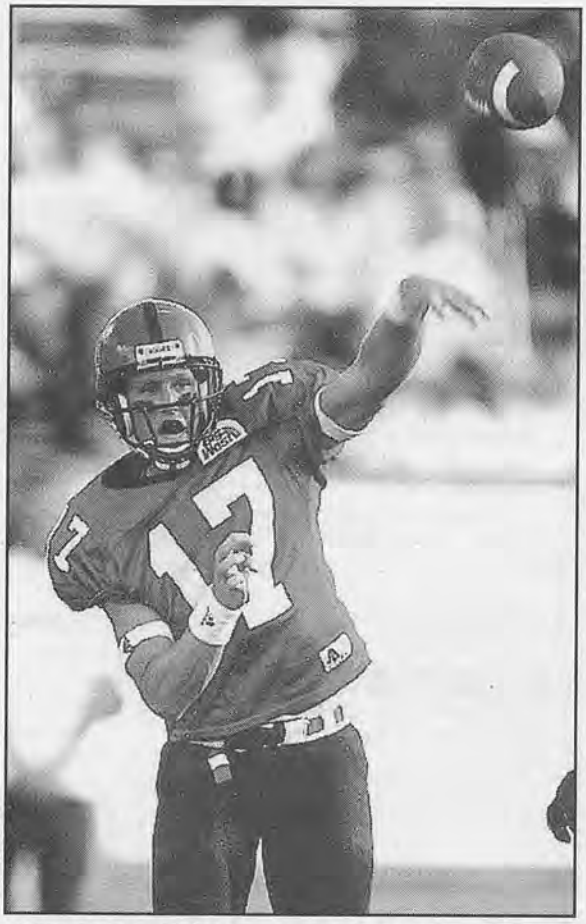
Best matchup: Boise State at New Mexico State, October 28. Idaho clutches to an outside shot, but chances are the conference winner will be decided in this matchup.

Upset of the year: North Texas over Boise State, October 21. That's about the time for a Boise State letdown, and who better to let down against than North Texas? The Broncos have snoozed the past two seasons against the Eagles and paid for it with a 21-13 loss in Boise in 1998 and a 17-10 loss in Denton last season.

Bowl bound: Boise State. The other Big West schools will struggle to register winning records.

Biggest shoes to fill: Utah State RBs John Roberts and Travelle Gaines will share the duties of following Demario Brown, who won the league's rushing title with 1,536 yards (sixth nationally) as a senior last season and finished as the school's career rushing leader. Emmett White was a first-team all-league returner and expected to replace Brown. But White moved to wide receiver in spring practice, although he could switch back if Utah State's ground game sputters.

Most overrated player: North Texas RB Ja'Quay Wilburn ran for 1,016 yards, but he



NEW MEXICO STATE

Better than you think: *Of Enzminger's 14 touchdown passes at New Mexico State last season, three covered 56 or more yards.*

Big West IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES Non-conference, conference
1. Boise State	The line must be rebuilt. End spot needs to be fortified.	QB Bart Hendricks K Nick Calaycay	CB Dempsy Dees LB Kareem Williams	Oct. 7 at Washington State Oct. 28 at New Mexico State
2. New Mexico State	Must fill two holes on the line and find WRs. Need to develop the line.	QB K.C. Enzminger FB Keeon Johnson	NT Oliver Soukup CB Jascon Willis	Sept. 16 vs. New Mexico Oct. 28 vs. Boise State
3. Idaho	A running back has to emerge. Strong unit must rebuild one side of line.	T Rick DeMulling WR Jeffrey Townsley	E Ryan Knowles LB Chris Nofoaiga	Sept. 23 at Washington State Nov. 18 at Boise State
4. Utah State	New line must be tough vs. the run. Receiving corps has to develop.	K Brad Bohn G Jess Schuck	LB Brent Passey LB Tony Newson	Oct. 6 at BYU Oct. 21 vs. Idaho
5. Arkansas State	Veteran attack must carry load. Line and linebackers are unproven.	WR Robert Kilow RB Jonathan Adams	SS Sean Mitchell LB Segun Ajigbeda	Sept. 16 vs. Memphis Oct. 28 at Utah State
6. North Texas	Looking for a QB who can run and throw. Rebuilt line has to mature quickly.	RB Ja'Quay Wilburn T J.R. Randle	CB Lawrence Ellis LB Brad Kassell	Aug. 31 vs. Baylor Nov. 11 at Arkansas State

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

scored just twice. Wilburn may not be to blame because he's the only weapon on a bad offensive team.

Most underrated player: New Mexico State QB K.C. Enzminger is stuck in an option-oriented system, but he still managed to average 171 yards passing and may break from the shadows of Boise State's Bart Hendricks and Utah State's Jeff Crosbie this season.

Best coach: Boise State's Dirk Koetter is entering his third season after becoming BSU's fourth coach in four seasons in 1998. But most folks in Boise don't expect Koetter to be around much longer, especially if his team achieves its expected success this season. His name already is popping up to be a successor at big-time schools like Arizona.

Best staff: New Mexico State gets the nod over Boise State. The Aggies posted their second winning record in 21 years last season. Samuel, a former linebackers coach at Nebraska, put together a staff with all but one coach from that state. Six of his coaches graduated from Nebraska, and the Aggies have adapted to the option system.

Coach on the hot seat: Arkansas State coach Joe Hollis is entering his fourth season with the Indians, who haven't won more than four games in a season since his arrival. The Indians will be lucky to take a 2-4 record into conference play, and winning two games there might be a stretch.

Best bets: Only Boise State will own a winning record when conference play begins. ... Koetter will be offered a better job after the season. ... The Big West champion will defeat its opponent in the Humanitarian Bowl, primarily because the opponent doesn't want to be in Boise in December. ... Idaho quarterback John Welsh, who broke his fibula against Auburn in the second game of last season, will push Hendricks for Big West Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Odds and ends: Samuel and Hollis share the title of the Big West's dean of coaches, each heading into their fourth year. The other coaches include North Texas' Darrell Dickey (third year), Koetter (third year), Idaho's Tom Cable (first year) and Dennehy (first year). ... The top seven passers from last season all were underclassmen. ... Remember the name Brock Forsey. Boise State's Forsey, a sophomore running back, emerged in the Humanitarian Bowl, setting a school record with 269 all-purpose yards (152 rushing) to earn the MVP.

Preseason ALL-BIG WEST

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Robert Kilow, Arkansas State	5-11	167	Sr.
WR	Jeffrey Townsley, Idaho	6-2	204	Sr.
TE	Mike Roberg, Idaho	6-4	260	Sr.
T	Rick DeMulling, Idaho	6-5	305	Sr.
T	Patrick Venzke, Idaho	6-6	310	Sr.
G	Tony Wragge, New Mexico State	6-3	305	Jr.
G	Andrew Lott, North Texas	6-2	291	Sr.
C	Matt Hancock, New Mexico State	6-0	280	Sr.
QB	Bart Hendricks, Boise State	6-0	205	Sr.
RB	Ja'Quay Wilburn, North Texas	5-10	188	Sr.
RB	Jonathan Adams, Arkansas State	6-0	214	Jr.

Defense

E	Mike Boganowski, New Mexico St.	6-3	230	Sr.
E	Ryan Knowles, Idaho	6-3	255	Jr.
T	Wil Beck, Idaho	6-2	301	Jr.
T	Oliver Soukup, New Mexico State	6-2	260	Sr.
LB	Chris Nofoaiga, Idaho	5-10	220	Sr.
LB	Kareem Williams, Boise State	6-0	222	Sr.
LB	Brent Passey, Utah State	6-1	227	Sr.
CB	Dempsy Dees, Boise State	5-10	174	Sr.
CB	Jascon Willis, New Mexico State	5-9	170	Sr.
S	Quintin Mikell, Boise State	5-10	194	So.
S	Donald Malloy, New Mexico State	5-9	185	Sr.

Specialists

K	Brad Bohn, Utah State	5-7	178	Sr.
P	Andy Kohl, New Mexico State	6-4	220	Sr.
KR	Emmett White, Utah State	5-11	199	Jr.

Honor Roll

Top offensive newcomer: Jody Jenkins, WR, ASU
Top defensive newcomer: Greg Toomes, CB, Boise
Best offensive backfield: New Mexico State
Best wide recievers: Boise State
Best offensive line: Idaho
Best defensive line: Idaho
Best linebackers: Utah State
Best secondary: Boise State
Best special teams: North Texas
Hardest hitter: Brent Passey, LB, Utah State
Best backup QB: Ed Dean, Idaho
Best pro prospect: Rick DeMulling, OT, Idaho
Best game-day atmosphere: Boise State

Player of the Year

Bart Hendricks, QB, Boise State

BOISE STATE

Bart Hendricks' junior season hit its lowest point and turning point together. Boise State's 6-0, 205-pound senior quarterback was booed early last season by hometown fans and criticized by media and his coaches.

"I heard it," Hendricks says. "I wasn't trying to avoid it, but I ignored it."

His season plummeted to new depths at North Texas October 16. It also turned around. Hendricks was intercepted on the second play of the game, already his ninth interception of the season. Boise State coach Dirk Koetter opened up the offense and allowed Hendricks to fire away. Boise State scored its first touchdown with 1:53 remaining, but it still suffered a 17-10 loss and dropped to 4-3. Koetter entered the following week with the same big-play, go-for-broke approach. His team responded with a 52-17 victory over Nevada and won its final six games, including a 34-31 upset of Louisville in the Humanitarian Bowl.

Koetter continued to throw out more reads, routes and decisions for Hendricks, who answered by breaking a 25-year-old school record with 3,103 total yards and winning Big West Offensive Player of the Year honors. But Boise State, 10-3 last year, lost six key senior offensive linemen, and Hendricks will be forced to make even quicker decisions this season.

"Bart makes a ton of great plays as a runner, but he still has room to make big plays passing," Koetter says. *–Derek Samson*

Recruiting

RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Brandon Kennedy	DL	5-10/285	Terrell, Texas/Terrell	North Texas
2. Greg Toomes	CB	5-10/180	Los Angeles/Mt. San Antonio (Texas) JC	Boise State
3. Jona Buckles	DB	5-11/195	Houston, Texas/Yates	North Texas
4. Robert Canidate	DB	5-8/180	Phoenix, Ariz./Alhambra	New Mexico State
5. Randy Gardner	TE	6-4/220	Midland, Texas/Midland	North Texas
6. Nate Griffin	FB	6-0/225	Fort Collins, Colo./Poudre	Idaho
7. Jonathan Younkins	DL	6-2/265	Jacksonville, Fla./Bolles	Idaho
8. Michael Ansel	OL	6-3/275	Huntington Beach, Calif./Marina	Boise State
9. Robert Nembhard	WR	5-9/160	Pasadena, Calif./Pasadena	Idaho
10. Jody Jennings	WR	5-10/165	Calhoun, Miss./Northwest Mississippi CC	Arkansas State
11. Bobby Patterson	DB	6-0/208	Topeka, Kan./Butler (Kan.) County CC	Arkansas State
12. Michael Brignac	WR	6-2/190	Westlake Village, Calif./West Lake	Utah State
13. Brandon Rager	LB	6-3/234	Roswell, N.M./Goddard	Arkansas State
14. Cheron Figgs	RB	5-8/185	El Paso, Texas/Andress	New Mexico State
15. Chris Stallworth	WR	6-3/190	Sacramento, Calif./Grant	Utah State
16. Jose Caywood	OL	6-4/315	Toldeo, Wash./Moorpark (Calif.) CC	Boise State
17. Jason Henry	DL	6-2/240	Houston/North Shore	Idaho
18. Russell Colburn	OL	6-4/275	La Crescenta, Calif./Crescenta Valley	Boise State
19. Steve Subia	OL	6-4/320	Midland, Texas/Lee	New Mexico State
20. Taylor Casey	TE	6-3/205	Odessa, Texas/Odessa	North Texas

RANKING the CLASSES

1. North Texas
2. Boise State
3. Arkansas State
4. Idaho
5. New Mexico St.
6. Utah State

1 Boise State

BRONCOS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 51

Coach: Dirk Koetter (16-8, 2 years)
1999 record: 10-3 (beat Louisville in Humanitarian Bowl). Big West: 5-1/1st
Site: Boise, Idaho
Stadium: Bronco (turf, 30,000)
Last league title: 1999

SCHEDULE

S2—at New Mexico
S9—Northern Iowa
S16—at Arkansas
S23—at Central Michigan
O7—at Washington State
O14—Eastern Washington
O21—North Texas
O28—at New Mexico St.
N4—at Arkansas State
N11—Utah State
N18—Idaho

Offensive philosophy: The Broncos are evolving from a team that relied heavily on its line and tailback to a club leaning on its quarterback and receivers. Boise State instituted a big-play mentality into its offense after a midseason loss at North Texas, and it paid off; the Broncos didn't lose again en route to a conference title and Humanitarian Bowl win.

Offensive stars: Boise State's change of philosophy stems from the athletes it features at quarterback and receiver. QB Bart Hendricks returns from a roller-coaster junior season that ended with him being named the league's offensive player of the year. Coach Dirk Koetter credits Hendricks' turnaround to his increased confidence in the receiving corps, which began making big plays in the second half of the season. The core of that group is back, led by Jeb Putzier and Jay Swillie. K Nick Calaycay is a big-time weapon.

Offensive concerns: Boise State's line lost six key members to graduation, including three starters, and it remains the biggest question. At least T Derek Olley is back. Coaches like the athleticism of the new group, but its inexperience and lack of depth and size could cause problems.

Defensive philosophy: The Broncos were able to gamble more on defense toward the end of last season because of the confidence in their secondary. With six starters gone, expect Boise State to start the season a little more conservative.

Defensive stars: CB Dempsy Dees proved during his junior season that he may have a shot to play on Sundays next year. Dees, a returning all-conference pick, could push himself into contention for the Jim Thorpe Award, although Boise State's lack of exposure will hurt. The secondary should be solid with Dees, FS Quintin Mikell and SS Shaunard Harts.

Defensive concerns: Boise State lost both of its ends, and the player with the most experience, Zach Weber, missed spring practice because of a knee injury. Junior college transfer Ryan Atkinson might be one answer, but someone in the group of Jeff Copp, Sky Dumont and Marcus Purkiss needs to develop.

Bottom line: The Broncos will win the conference title unless the offensive line's inexperience forces Hendricks to spend his Saturdays on his back, ruining the confidence he built last season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Jeb Putzier**	**6-5**	**227**	**Jr.**
T	**Derek Olley**	**6-5**	**297**	**Jr.**
G	Matt Navest	6-3	292	Jr.
C	Scott Huff	6-2	290	So.
G	Rob Vian	6-5	291	So.
T	Matt Hill	6-6	292	Jr.
TE	Robby Snelling	6-2	252	Sr.
WR	Jay Swillie	6-3	204	So.
QB	**Bart Hendricks**	**6-0**	**205**	**Sr.**
RB	**Davy Malaythong**	**5-10**	**191**	**Sr.**
FB	**Shay Swan**	**6-0**	**215**	**Sr.**

Defense

E	Sky Dumont	6-2	236	Jr.
E	Jeff Copp	6-0	241	Sr.
T	Bobby Hammer	6-2	262	So.
T	**Bradly Phillips**	**6-3**	**286**	**Sr.**
LB	Kareem Williams	6-0	222	Sr.
LB	Justin Howell	6-1	212	Sr.
CB	**Dempsy Dees**	**5-10**	**174**	**Sr.**
SS	Greg Sasser	5-9	191	Jr.
FS	**Quintin Mikell**	**5-10**	**194**	**So.**
S	**Shaunard Harts**	**6-0**	**200**	**Sr.**
CB	Randy Selden	5-8	159	So.

Special Teams

K	**Nick Calaycay**	**5-7**	**170**	**So.**
P	**Jeff Edwards**	**5-8**	**164**	**Sr.**

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

2 New Mexico St.

AGGIES DATA

NATIONAL RANK 66

Coach: Tony Samuel (11-22, 3 years)
1999 record: 6-5. Big West: 3-3/T3rd
Site: Las Cruces, N.M.
Stadium: Aggie Memorial (grass, 30,343)
Last league title: 1978 (Missouri Valley)

SCHEDULE

S2—at South Carolina
S16—New Mexico
S23—at Georgia
S30—at UTEP
O7—Army
O14—Tulsa
O21—at Arkansas State
O28—Boise State
N4—Utah State
N11—at Idaho
N18—at North Texas

Offensive philosophy: Coach Tony Samuel doesn't want NMSU to be called an option team, so let's stick with a running squad. The Aggies plan to control the football and keep their offense on the field, which comes from a ground game that features the option.

Offensive stars: The battery that charges the option returns with QB K.C. Enzminger, RB Kenton Keith and FB Keeon Johnson, whose role might be the biggest in this system. The backfield was riddled with injuries last season, so Samuel is anxious to see what this offense can do with a healthy runner. Enzminger can keep defenses honest with his passing ability. The weapons are here to put up impressive numbers—as long as the running backs stay healthy.

Offensive concerns: Receivers don't play an enormous part of New Mexico State's offense, and it's a good thing. The Aggies lost their top receivers and spent spring ball trying to find someone. The line has two holes to fill, which is a big deal in this offense.

Defensive philosophy: The Aggies offer multiple looks, but they primarily line up in a 5-2 front. LB D'Wayne Taylor and FS Donald Malloy will be used on the blitz more often this season. The Aggies have the secondary to take risks, and they may be forced to blitz more because the line doesn't appear capable of putting much pressure on the quarterback by itself.

Defensive stars: Taylor and Malloy provide the Aggies with a comfortable 1-2 punch, and LB Raul Anaya could be ready for a breakthrough season because his importance increases with NMSU's inexperienced front. The secondary will be difficult to burn with Malloy, Jascon Willis and Marsey Hawley camping out.

Defensive concerns: The Aggies must rebuild their defensive front, of which the interior looks especially shaky. Offenses will run away from E Lyn Perryman unless the rest of the line is up to the challenge.

Bottom line: New Mexico State hasn't produced consecutive winning records since 1966-67. The Aggies will challenge for a league title, although they need to develop depth. New Mexico State suffered too many injuries last season, and if that bad luck (or poor conditioning) strikes again, it needs capable players to fill in.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	P.J. Winston	6-0	180	So.
T	Trevis Beckworth	6-4	320	Sr.
G	Shalimar Jackson	6-3	305	So.
C	**Matt Hancock**	**6-0**	**280**	**Sr.**
G	**Tony Wragge**	**6-3**	**305**	**Jr.**
T	**Mick Rodemeyer**	**6-4**	**320**	**Sr.**
TE	Marcellus McCray	6-3	245	Sr.
WR	Leon Oloya	6-1	180	So.
QB	**K.C. Enzminger**	**6-1**	**200**	**Jr.**
RB	**Kenton Keith**	**5-11**	**180**	**Jr.**
FB	Phil Branstetter	5-10	230	Sr.

Defense

E	Rashaad Williams	6-3	195	Sr.
E	Mike Boganowski	6-3	260	Sr.
T	Ira Ross	6-3	270	Sr.
NT	Oliver Soukup	6-2	260	Sr.
OLB	**Raul Anaya**	**6-1**	**210**	**Sr.**
MLB	Mawuli Davis	5-10	230	Jr.
OLB	**D'Wayne Taylor**	**6-0**	**195**	**Jr.**
CB	Clarence Moniba	5-10	175	Sr.
SS	**Marsey Hawley**	**5-8**	**175**	**Sr.**
FS	**Donald Malloy**	**5-9**	**185**	**Sr.**
CB	**Jascon Willis**	**5-9**	**170**	**Sr.**

Special Teams

K	**Andy Kohl**	**6-4**	**220**	**Sr.**
P	**Andy Kohl**	**6-4**	**220**	**Sr.**

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

3 Idaho

VANDALS DATA

Coach: Tom Cable (1st season)
1999 record: 7-4. Big West: 4-2/2nd
Site: Moscow, Idaho
Stadium: Martin (turf, 37,600)
Last league title: 1998

NATIONAL RANK 87

SCHEDULE

S2—at Washington
S9—Montana
S16—at Oregon
S23—at Washington State
S30—Montana State
O7—at West Virginia
O14—Arkansas State
O21—at Utah State
N4—at North Texas
N11—New Mexico State
N18—at Boise State

Offensive philosophy: Change has hit Moscow. New coach Tom Cable plans to implement a ground game for the pass-happy Vandals. Cable, who spent the past two years at the University of Colorado, including one year as offensive coordinator, will put in more double-tight end, two-back sets. Cable, a former Idaho guard, will be hammering, "balance, balance, balance" into his team this season.

Offensive stars: QB John Welsh led Idaho to a Humanitarian Bowl title in 1998, but he broke his fibula against Auburn in the second game of last season. He returned for the final three games but didn't look like the Welsh of '98. He will be this season. Four linemen return to protect Welsh, including All-Big West T Rick DeMulling.

Offensive concerns: If the Vandals expect to run the ball more often, they better find a running back. Willie Alderson has experience, but Idaho lacks depth and experience. And none of the running backs will be used to the beating they will take with extensive carries instead of pass blocking or running routes. Another issue is how the quarterbacks will adapt to an offense that doesn't have a strong emphasis on the pass.

Defensive philosophy: The goal for Idaho's defense is to keep T Wil Beck in one-on-one blocking. Beck can be a force, but this year he's without counterpart Mao Tosi, a former all-league tackle, lining up beside him. Tosi drew the double-teams last season, allowing Beck more space and fewer bodies pounding him. That won't happen this year, and the Vandals must create ways to keep Beck from the double-teams.

Defensive stars: Idaho is strong up front, and this could be the year E Ryan Knowles becomes a leader. LB Chris Nofoaiga will tear apart the league. Nofoaiga, the returning Big West Defensive Player of the Year, won't have Tosi in front of him to take away blockers, but it shouldn't matter. With Beck, Nofoaiga, Knowles and CB Cleavon Bradshaw, the Vandals should be difficult to score on.

Defensive concerns: Not many, although one side of the line needs to be replaced. And, like every Big West team, depth is a concern.

Bottom line: Idaho has a shot at its second league title in three years, but its offense must fill key holes and take to Cable's new system.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Jeffrey Townsley**	**6-2**	**204**	**Sr.**
T	**Rick DeMulling**	**6-5**	**305**	**Sr.**
G	**Brett Morton**	**6-4**	**320**	**Sr.**
C	**Jeremy Wallace**	**6-3**	**274**	**Sr.**
G	**Anthony Fuertes**	**6-4**	**262**	**Jr.**
T	**Patrick Venzke**	**6-6**	**310**	**Sr.**
TE	**Mike Roberg**	**6-4**	**260**	**Sr.**
WR	**Ethan Jones**	**6-1**	**210**	**Jr.**
QB	**John Welsh**	**6-2**	**213**	**Jr.**
RB	**Anthony Tenner**	**5-9**	**192**	**Sr.**
FB	Casey Hills	6-3	227	Sr.

Defense

E	**Ryan Knowles**	**6-3**	**255**	**Jr.**
E	Dennis Taeatafa	6-3	260	Jr.
T	J.J. Johnston	6-2	264	Sr.
NT	**Wil Beck**	**6-2**	**301**	**Jr.**
LB	**Chris Nofoaiga**	**5-10**	**220**	**Sr.**
LB	**Rick Giampietri**	**5-10**	**203**	**Sr.**
LB	**Jason Daniel**	**6-0**	**215**	**Jr.**
CB	**Cleavon Bradshaw**	**5-9**	**175**	**Sr.**
SS	Jordan Kramer	6-0	212	So.
FS	**Brad Rice**	**6-1**	**210**	**Jr.**
CB	**Dennis Gibbs**	**5-10**	**189**	**Sr.**

Special Teams

K	**Ben Davis**	**6-1**	**177**	**Sr.**
P	Keith Stamps	5-10	232	So.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

4 Utah State

AGGIES DATA

Coach: Mick Dennehy (1st season; 39-12 overall, 4 years)
1999 record: 4-7. Big West: 3-3/T3rd
Site: Logan, Utah
Stadium: Romney (grass, 30,257)
Last league title: 1997

NATIONAL RANK 90

SCHEDULE

S2—at Texas Tech
S9—Southern Utah
S23—at Arizona State
S30—Utah
O6—at BYU
O14—at North Texas
O21—Idaho
O28—Arkansas State
N4—at New Mexico State
N11—at Boise State
N18—Idaho State

Offensive philosophy: New coach Mick Dennehy brings a wide-open passing attack with him from Montana, but he might not be able to use much of it. Don't expect Utah State to take as many chances down the field as Dennehy's Montana teams did. The Aggies don't have the players, particularly the receivers, to do it. Early on, Utah State will attempt to establish the run, but that may be difficult as well. The Aggies lost Demario Brown, the school's career and season rushing leader, after he finished sixth nationally with 1,536 yards last season.

Offensive stars: Jeff Crosbie returns after throwing for 2,007 yards last season, but he won't have the same receivers to find. Crosbie could excel in Dennehy's system, even if it won't be as wide open as it was in Montana.

Offensive concerns: The receivers were so thin that Emmett White, who was expected to take over Brown's spot at running back, was moved outside. Utah State also focused on receivers in recruiting; expect freshmen Michael Brignac and Chris Stallworth to make an impact. The Aggies will be thin on the line, although T Jeff Long looked solid in spring ball.

Defensive philosophy: Dennehy will use multiple sets but likely will base out of the 4-3. Utah State, however, possesses such a strong linebacking corps and shaky line that Dennehy may be forced to switch to a 3-4.

Defensive stars: Utah State's three linebackers (Brent Passey, Tony Newson and Blake Eagal) are the best group in the league. But the line must be rebuilt. Tony Walker, an excellent cover cornerback, leads a secondary that is deep but suspect.

Defensive concerns: The linebackers can keep Utah State in games, but the line can take it out of them. Dennehy's offense won't get many chances unless the line matures and keeps teams from running successfully.

Bottom line: Utah State, which won the conference in 1997, is in another rebuilding year. Dennehy's toughest battle has been building trust. After all, he is the third coach in four years and discovered that trust in the program is lost. Dennehy and his coaching staff spent spring practice trying to build relationships as much as good players. If the enjoyment and enthusiasm return to Utah State, maybe some wins will, too. The talent isn't strong, so the attitudes must be for Utah State to have a chance.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jerron Tatum	6-0	169	Jr.
T	Eric Gwilliam	6-5	257	Jr.
G	**Jess Schuck**	**6-2**	**305**	**Jr.**
C	**Junior Pututau**	**6-1**	**300**	**Sr.**
G	Luis Trujillo	6-2	310	So.
T	Steve Canidate	6-4	333	Sr.
TE	Casey Poppinga	6-5	247	So.
WR	**Aaron Jones**	**5-11**	**180**	**Sr.**
WR	**Ky Oday**	**6-2**	**183**	**Sr.**
QB	**Jeff Crosbie**	**6-5**	**198**	**Jr.**
RB	Emmett White	5-11	199	Jr.

Defense

E	Ryan Duncan	6-2	245	Jr.
E	Nick Onaindia	6-3	243	Sr.
T	*Jorge Tapia	6-2	277	Fr.
T	Jason Moore	6-2	306	Jr.
OLB	**Brent Passey**	**6-1**	**227**	**Sr.**
MLB	**Tony Newson**	**6-1**	**221**	**Sr.**
OLB	**Blake Eagal**	**6-2**	**231**	**Sr.**
CB	**Tony Walker**	**5-11**	**183**	**Jr.**
SS	Aminifu Johnson	5-8	191	Jr.
FS	Scott Goss	6-2	195	Jr.
CB	Terrance Arnold	5-11	188	So.

Special Teams

K	**Brad Bohn**	**5-7**	**178**	**Sr.**
P	**Steve Mullins**	**6-4**	**226**	**So.**

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

5 Arkansas State

INDIANS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 107

Coach: Joe Hollis (14-29, 3 years; 18-34-1 overall, 4 years)
1999 record: 4-7. Big West: 3-3/T3rd
Site: Jonesboro, Ark.
Stadium: Indian (grass, 33,410)
Last league title: 1987

SCHEDULE

S2—at NC State
S9—at Oklahoma
S16—Memphis
S23—at TCU
S30—Richmond
O7—at Mississippi
O14—at Idaho
O21—New Mexico State
O28—at Utah State
N4—Boise State
N11—North Texas

Offensive philosophy: The Indians are experimenting with moving people to different positions and plan to insert more one-back, four-receiver sets into the playbook. Coach Joe Hollis hopes his team will gain flexibility with more receivers, which was a focus in recruiting.

Offensive stars: QB Cleo Lemon is a three-year starter, and WR Robert Kilow could be the best in the league. T Garry Johnson should be a first-team all-conference pick. All five starters on the line return, which will give Lemon more time to find one of his many receivers in the new passing offense. That's also good news for returning RB Jonathan Adams.

Offensive concerns: Hollis focused on the skill positions in recruiting. The Indians still are looking for all of those spots, except quarterback. They need a replacement at tight end, they have no depth at running back and Kilow is the only threat at receiver. The Indians added wide receivers Jody Jenkins and Alvin Powell through recruiting, which might help.

Defensive philosophy: This was Arkansas State's biggest problem last year. WR Kevin Woods was moved to cornerback, and Kishan Cotton was switched from linebacker to safety. The 3-4 defense will feature a pair of sophomores in the front three.

Defensive stars: CB Hanis Bowens leads a defense that is filled with holes. SS Sean Mitchell also starts in a decent secondary. If Woods and Cotton make smooth transitions to the secondary, the Indians will become difficult to pass against. But outside of Bowens and Mitchell, it gets pretty slim for this leaky unit.

Defensive concerns: The front seven won't scare anyone. The line and secondary were main areas of concern after last season, but the Indians made moves to improve the defensive backfield. The line doesn't look as promising. Arkansas State struggled last year with the fundamentals, like tackling. Moving players to different positions won't matter much if they can't tackle.

Bottom line: Arkansas State doesn't have the players on either side of the ball to compete. "Lemon-to-Kilow" will be a familiar call this season, but so will "Arkansas State loses." The Indians have too many questions and not enough answers.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	J. Hickenbotham	5-10	173	So.
T	**Garrick Jones**	**6-4**	**307**	**Jr.**
G	Jamie Pond	6-3	322	Sr.
C	Jack Wright	6-1	267	Sr.
G	**John Crossley**	**6-2**	**308**	**So.**
T	**Garry Johnson**	**6-4**	**309**	**So.**
TE	Bob Lanaux	6-6	240	So.
WR	**Robert Kilow**	**5-11**	**167**	**Sr.**
QB	**Cleo Lemon**	**6-3**	**209**	**Sr.**
RB	Jonathan Adams	6-0	214	Jr.
FB	**Jacquis Walker**	**6-0**	**245**	**Sr.**

Defense

E	Maci Davis	6-1	278	So.
E	**Erik Kellim**	**6-3**	**274**	**Sr.**
NT	Tyronne Armstrong	6-2	317	So.
OLB	*Leonard Johnson	6-2	235	Fr.
OLB	**Segun Ajigbeda**	**6-2**	**233**	**Sr.**
ILB	Russell Seaton	6-1	225	Sr.
ILB	Charles Mabry	5-11	231	Sr.
CB	**Hanis Bowens**	**5-9**	**162**	**Sr.**
SS	**Sean Mitchell**	**5-9**	**190**	**Sr.**
FS	Keith Headley	6-1	200	Jr.
CB	**Kishan Cotton**	**5-10**	**194**	**Jr.**

Special Teams

K	**Nick Gatto**	**6-0**	**185**	**Sr.**
P	Andy Shatley	6-3	219	Jr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

6 North Texas

EAGLES DATA

NATIONAL RANK 111

Coach: Darrell Dickey (5-17, 2 years)
1999 record: 2-9. Big West: 1-5/7th
Site: Denton, Texas
Stadium: Fouts Field (turf, 30,500)
Last league title: 1994 (Southland)

SCHEDULE

A31—Baylor
S9—at Texas Tech
S16—at UNLV
S23—at Kansas State
O5—Samford
O14—Utah State
O21—at Boise State
O28—at La.-Lafayette
N4—Idaho
N11—at Arkansas State
N18—New Mexico State

Offensive philosophy: Anyone who watched the Eagles last season likely figured the philosophy was "three-and-out." Coach Darrell Dickey wants to throw the ball more, but the Eagles might not be good enough to do it. The running game was decent at times last season. The passing game wasn't.

Offensive stars: RB Ja'Quay Wilburn returns after rushing for 1,016 yards last season, but he scored only twice. Defenses were able to key on him with no passing game. Returning starting QB Richard Bridges will look for WR LaDarrin McLane, and he should have more time to do so with three linemen and TE Jeff Muenchow back.

Offensive concerns: The Eagles were plagued by a combination of mistakes last year. When it wasn't a poor pass, it was a dropped pass. When the receiver wasn't covered, the quarterback was sacked. Bridges averaged only 62 yards passing and threw just three touchdown passes. As a team, North Texas threw eight interceptions and six touchdown passes.

Defensive philosophy: Defense was the bright spot for North Texas last season. But conditioning must improve because the Eagles fell apart late in games. The Eagles played bend-but-don't-break defense last year, which was good enough to keep them in a few games.

Defensive stars: Linebackers, led by Brad Kassell, form the strongest unit on the team. Fred Pertile (27 consecutive starts) and Jeff Rodgers round out that solid group. CB Lawrence Ellis is the only standout in the secondary.

Defensive concerns: The line lost all four players who started the last game of the year. The biggest blow is the departure of all-conference E Corbin Montgomery. Chris McIver, Trey Davis and Eric Bridges are among the players being asked to fill in. The defense benefited from North Texas' special teams backing opponents deep into their own territory, but without standout P John Baker, the defense won't have that luxury as often.

Bottom line: North Texas again will enter its Big West schedule battered and bruised. The Eagles traditionally play a brutal non-conference schedule, and this season is no exception with Kansas State and Texas Tech on tap. North Texas again will stumble through its conference schedule. Even worse, it will be boring to watch when doing it because of a lack of offense.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**LaDarrin McLane**	**6-2**	**195**	**Sr.**
T	Shawn Kramer	6-5	270	Jr.
G	**Josh Kay**	**6-2**	**297**	**Sr.**
C	*Ian Hobbs	6-3	265	Fr.
G	**Andrew Lott**	**6-2**	**291**	**Sr.**
T	**J.R. Randle**	**6-5**	**287**	**So.**
TE	**Jeff Muenchow**	**6-4**	**236**	**So.**
WR	George Marshall	6-1	181	So.
QB	**Richard Bridges**	**6-3**	**218**	**So.**
RB	**Ja'Quay Wilburn**	**5-10**	**188**	**Sr.**
FB	Michael Hickmon	5-10	197	So.

Defense

E	Jeff Harris	6-2	240	Sr.
E	Ron Paris	6-3	230	So.
T	John Ryan	6-3	264	So.
NT	Eric Bridges	6-2	255	So.
OLB	Corry Pertile	6-3	208	Sr.
MLB	**Brad Kassell**	**6-3**	**227**	**So.**
OLB	**Fred Pertile**	**6-0**	**190**	**Sr.**
CB	Don McGee	5-11	185	So.
SS	**Heath Moody**	**6-1**	**204**	**Sr.**
FS	*Craig Jones	6-0	185	Fr.
CB	Lawrence Ellis	5-11	183	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Jason Ball**	**5-7**	**158**	**Jr.**
P	**Jason Ball**	**5-7**	**158**	**Jr.**

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

SCOUTING THE INDEPENDENTS

Central Florida should emerge; Notre Dame, Davie face battle

By Michael Bradley

Get ready to blow "Taps" for the independent legions. Once filled with proud pioneers, unwilling to commit to any conference, the ranks will thin to three because of the creation of a new league and the defection of another school to an established confederation.

The Sun Belt enters the I-A football business next year, combining indies Middle Tennessee State, Louisiana-Lafayette and Louisiana-Monroe with Big West members Arkansas State, New Mexico State, North Texas and Idaho. Louisiana Tech, meanwhile, will join the WAC, leaving Notre Dame, Navy and Central Florida without affiliations.

Notre Dame isn't going anywhere, but Navy and Central Florida would like to find homes. The Golden Knights are putting a full sales press on the Big East. Navy wouldn't mind joining, too, but it might have to settle for something less or remain alone.

Ascending: Central Florida took a step backward last year, mostly because of the departure of record-setting quarterback Daunte Culpepper. But the Golden Knights have been recruiting well lately, and they are blessed with some standout skill performers.

Descending: The loss of Tim Rattay and key players along the defensive front will hurt a Louisiana Tech team that just missed a bowl. Tech isn't headed for the glue factory, but it will be the victim of adjustments.

Best matchup: The last time Notre Dame played Nebraska during the season (1948), Harry Truman was in the White House and the Irish were in the midst of a four-year, 36-0-2 run that featured three national titles and a runner-up finish. Funny how times change. The Cornhuskers, who last played ND in the Orange Bowl after the 1972 season, visit South Bend September 9 for a matchup that may be better on paper than the field.

Upset of the year: Central Florida over Georgia Tech, September 2. Just six days after visiting Virginia Tech, the young Yellow Jackets must handle UCF's wide-open attack and improved defense.

Bowl bound: Notre Dame is the only one of this group with a realistic shot at a bowl, but don't figure the Irish for a BCS slot. A brutal schedule and questions under center and on defense make ND a good bet for a second-tier winter vacation.

Biggest shoes to fill: How would you like to replace the second all-time NCAA passer? That's Louisiana Tech junior Brian Stallworth's lot in life. He

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Big debut: *Julius Jones is coming off a terrific first season at Notre Dame in which he led the Irish in kick returns and all-purpose yardage.*

Independents IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES non-conference, conference
1. Notre Dame	Passing game has to be effective. Veteran unit must create turnovers, big plays.	RB Julius Jones TE Jabari Holloway	E Grant Irons FS Tony Driver	Sept. 2 vs. Texas A&M Sept. 16 vs. Purdue
2. Navy	Passing game has to improve; line needs work. Porous pass defense needs to get better.	QB Brian Madden FB Raheem Lambert	FS Chris Lepore LB Shaka Martin	Oct. 7 at Air Force Dec. 2 vs. Army
3. Central Florida	Needs to run the ball better. Linebackers, line lack experience.	QB Vic Penn C Chris Lorenti	T Josh McKibben SS Damian Demps	Sept. 2 at Georgia Tech Sept. 30 at Eastern Michigan
4. Louisiana Tech	Four new line starters must protect new QB. Leaky line is being rebuilt.	WR James Jordan T Damon Lavergne	LB Quincy Stewart LB Bobby Gray	Oct. 14 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette Nov. 11 at Louisiana-Monroe
5. La.-Monroe	Thin RB and line corps may spell trouble. Veteran linemen must become more productive.	QB Andy Chance T Padraic McGinnis	LB Otis Robinson SS Cedric Robinson	Nov. 4 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette Nov. 11 vs. Louisiana Tech
6. La.-Lafayette	Line and quarterback spots need to solidify. Needs to generate more turnovers.	QB Derek Dyer T Jonathon Raush	LB Travis Schwartz E Walter Sampson	Oct. 14 at Louisiana Tech Nov. 4 at Louisiana-Monroe
7. Middle Tenn. St.	Line needs to toughen up its run blocking. Must improve against the run.	WR Kendall Newson QB Wes Counts	E Curtis Daniely FS Mario Kelso	Oct. 7 vs. Louisiana Tech Oct. 21 at UAB
8. Connecticut	Quarterback must develop. Small line can't get run over.	WR John Fitzsimmons RB Taber Small	CB Roy Hopkins T Greg Smoot	Sept. 2 at Eastern Michigan Nov. 4 vs. Middle Tennessee

takes over for Rattay. But Bulldogs fans shouldn't fret. Stallworth may not be as dangerous as Rattay was in the pocket, but he's capable of beating teams with his arm and legs.

Most overrated player: Grant Irons, we're waiting. The Notre Dame senior defensive end was supposed to be the big-play specialist the Irish have lacked, but he hasn't delivered. Irons is a solid, but he needs to get into enemy backfields more.

Most underrated player: All James Jordan did last year was catch 81 passes and score 11 touchdowns, but because he plays for Louisiana Tech, nobody mentioned him among the nation's top wideouts. Pity. Jordan may not catch as many balls this year, working with a new quarterback, but Jordan deserves attention.

Best coach: Navy's Charlie Weatherbie consistently has his team prepared to battle larger and often more talented teams. And the Middies do well.

Best staff: With Greg Mattison as defensive coordinator and Kevin Rogers directing the offense, Notre Dame has a good deal. The rest of the group isn't too bad, either, in particular Kirk Doll and Bob Chmiel.

Coach on the hot seat: Bob Davie's career 21-16 record isn't what the ND had in mind when he took over for Lou Holtz. If the Irish doesn't start well this year (and we mean 4-1 or 5-0) vs. a schedule that opens with Texas A&M, Nebraska, Purdue, Michigan State and Stanford, Davie may not survive.

Best bets: Notre Dame will beat Navy for the 37th year in a row, extending the nation's longest continuous one-sided "rivalry." ... Louisiana Tech's decision to join the WAC, rather than try for a spot in the Sun Belt, will add spice to an already-bitter rivalry with Louisiana-Monroe. The teams meet November 11 in Monroe. ... Navy quarterback Brian Madden will rush for 100 or more yards in at least seven games.

Odds and ends: The Sun Belt has only seven teams, but it does have a bowl affiliation. An unnamed postseason contest will be played before Christmas in New Orleans and feature the Sun Belt champ. ... Connecticut received a waver from the NCAA so that it won't have to expand Memorial Stadium (capacity: 16,200) to join the I-A ranks this season. The Huskies expect a 40,000-seat stadium to be ready in East Hartford (about 25 minutes from campus) in 2003. ... The next team to join the independent ranks will be South Florida in 2001. The Bulls will join Conference USA in 2003.

Preseason ALL-INDEPENDENT

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	James Jordan, Louisiana Tech	6-3	220	Jr.
WR	Kendall Newson, Middle Tennessee	6-2	186	Jr.
TE	Jabari Holloway, Notre Dame	6-3	260	Sr.
T	Jordan Black, Notre Dame	6-6	310	Jr.
T	Hoot Stahl, Navy	6-6	300	Sr.
G	Mike Gandy, Notre Dame	6-4	315	Sr.
G	Jim Jones, Notre Dame	6-2	310	Sr.
C	Chris Lorenti, Central Florida	6-5	320	Sr.
QB	Vic Penn, Central Florida	6-1	180	Sr.
RB	Julius Jones, Notre Dame	5-10	201	So.
RB	Tony Fisher, Notre Dame	6-2	225	Jr.

Defense

E	Grant Irons, Notre Dame	6-5	275	Sr.
E	Darrell Campbell, Notre Dame	6-4	275	So.
T	Anthony Weaver, Notre Dame	6-3	276	Jr.
T	Lance LeGree, Notre Dame	6-1	292	Sr.
LB	Shaka Martin, Navy	6-2	233	Jr.
LB	Quincy Stewart, Louisiana Tech	6-1	225	Sr.
LB	Anthony Denman, Notre Dame	6-2	235	Sr.
CB	Brock Williams, Notre Dame	5-10	190	Sr.
CB	Davede Alexander, Navy	5-9	165	Sr.
S	Chris Lepore, Navy	6-0	198	Sr.
S	Tony Driver, Notre Dame	6-2	215	Sr.

Specialists

K	Javier Beorlegui, Central Florida	6-1	225	Jr.
P	Javier Beorlegui, Central Florida	6-1	225	Jr.
KR	John Simon, Louisiana Tech	5-10	190	Jr.

Honor Roll

Top off. newcomer: Jovan Witherspoon, WR, N.D.
Top defensive newcomer: Mike Goolsby, LB, N.D.
Best Offensive backfield: Notre Dame
Best wide recievers: Louisiana Tech
Best offensive line: Notre Dame
Best defensive line: Notre Dame
Best linebackers: Navy
Best secondary: Notre Dame
Best special teams: Central Florida
Hardest hitter: Chris Lepore, FS, Navy
Best backup QB: Brian Broadwater, Navy
Best pro prospect: Julius Jones, RB, Notre Dame
Best game-day atmosphere: Notre Dame

Player of the Year

Vic Penn, QB, Central Florida

PAUL CHAPMAN / CENTRAL FLA.

After listening to Mike Kruczek describe his expectations for last season, one has to wonder if the Central Florida coach isn't a bit self-delusional. It's almost possible to imagine him standing in front of the mirror every morning, telling himself that he looks just as good as he did when he was a star quarterback at Boston College back in 1975.

Instead of realizing that Penn, who was taking over for record-breaking Daunte Culpepper, would need to carry the offense, Kruczek thought his Golden Knights would be able to run the ball. This after he told anybody who would listen how inexperienced his line was. "I went into the season hoping I wouldn't have to put a lot of pressure on his shoulders," Kruczek says of Penn.

So, guess what happened? Penn ended up throwing 455 passes and outshining a ground attack that averaged 130 yards. Not that he minded. After a circuitous journey that took him from his hometown of Miami to the University of South Carolina and Garden City (Kan.) Junior College before ending in Orlando, Penn didn't mind the extra work. In fact, he thrived on it, completing 57.6 percent of his passes for 3,078 yards, 16 scores and just 11 interceptions. He topped the 300-yard mark four times.

"He did a remarkable job," Kruczek says. "He never lost his composure and was the consummate competitor."

Though only 6-1, 180 pounds, Penn, a senior, can make all the throws, is elusive and understands the complicated UCF passing scheme. With the line expected to continue to struggle, Penn again is likely to carry the attack. You have to figure Kruczek knows that. Or does he? *–Michael Bradley*

Recruiting

RANKING the RECRUITS

Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1. Vontez Duff	RB	6-1/175	Copperas Cove, Tex./Copperas Cove	Notre Dame
2. Greg Pauly	DL	6-6/275	Waukesha, Wis./South	Notre Dame
3. Jared Clark	QB	6-4/220	Sarasota, Fla./Cardinal Mooney	Notre Dame
4. Jovan Witherspoon	WR	6-4/205	Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers	Notre Dame
5. Mike Goolsby	LB	6-4/225	Joliet, Ill./Catholic	Notre Dame
6. Carlyle Holiday	QB	6-2/190	San Antonio, Texas/Roosevelt	Notre Dame
7. Matt Lovecchio	QB	6-3/200	Franklin Lakes, N.J./Bergen Catholic	Notre Dame
8. Ronnie Rodamer	WR	6-4/185	Morgantown, W.Va./Morgantown	Notre Dame
9. Lorenzo Crawford	ATH	5-11/175	Prospect Park, N.J./Paterson Catholic	Notre Dame
10. Garron Bible	RB	5-10/185	Kingwood, Tex./Kingwood	Notre Dame
11. Jerome Collins	WR	6-4/200	Warrenville, Ill./Wheaton-Warrenville South	Notre Dame
12. Michael Gaines	TE	6-3/265	Tallahassee, Fla./Florida	Central Florida
13. John Andrews	LB	6-0/230	Atlanta, Ga./Douglass	Central Florida
14. Omar Jenkins	WR	6-2/180	Dallas, Tex./Jesuit	Notre Dame
15. Derek Curry	LB	6-4/225	Sealy, Tex./Sealy	Notre Dame
16. Michael Johnson	ATH	5-10/165	Dallas, Tex./Bishop Dunne	Louisiana Tech
17. Michael Woods	DB	6-2/190	Valdosta, Ga./Lowndes County	Middle Tennessee
18. Alex Haynes	RB	5-11/205	Orlando, Fla./Evans	Central Florida
19. Billy Palmer	TE	6-3/250	Wyntree Heathrow, Fla./Lake Highland Prep	Notre Dame
20. Jon Van Cleave	QB	6-4/215	Arlington, Tex./Pantego Christian	Louisiana-Lafayette

RANKING the CLASSES

1. Notre Dame
2. Central Florida
3. Louisiana Tech
4. La.-Monroe
5. Middle Tenn.
6. La.-Lafayette
7. Connecticut

Navy doesn't release names.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1 Notre Dame

NATIONAL RANK 22

Coach: Bob Davie (21-16, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Kevin Rogers (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Greg Mattison (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 26
Lettermen returning: 44
Site: South Bend, Ind.
Stadium: Notre Dame (grass, 80,012)
Last bowl appearance: 1998
1999 TSN rank: 58
1999 record: 5-7

1999 Results

Kansas, W, 48-13
at Michgian, L, 26-22
at Purdue, L, 28-23
Michigan State, L, 23-13
Oklahoma, W, 34-30
Arizona State, W, 48-17
USC, W, 25-24
Navy, W, 28-24
at Tennessee, L, 38-14
at Pittsburgh, L, 37-27
Boston College, L, 31-29
at Stanford, L, 40-37

Schedule

S2—Texas A&M
S9—Nebraska
S16—Purdue
S23—at Michigan State
O7—Stanford
O14—Navy*
O21—at West Virginia
O28—Air Force
N11—Boston College
N18—at Rutgers
N25—at USC
*at Orlando, Fla.

Offensive philosophy: Coach Bob Davie acknowledges the Fighting Irish threw the ball too often last year, but an inexperienced line mandated that. Expect the Irish to return to the basics this season with a power running game and—gasp!—the option as the main staples. Notre Dame still wants to throw it, but not 25 times a game.

Offensive stars: Had the Irish not needed to wing it so much last year, RB Julius Jones might have been even more impressive than he was in his collegiate debut. This year, behind a strong line, he should break out. But he won't be alone in the backfield. RB Tony Fisher is big and fast. The line has four starters returning, most notably T Jordan Black and Gs Jim Jones and Mike Gandy, both fifth-year seniors. TE Jabari Holloway is one of the nation's best; now he needs to get the ball enough to prove it. Davie predicts big things for sophomore WR Jamaar Taylor.

Offensive concerns: There's one, but it's huge. QB Arnaz Battle takes over for Jarious Jackson and must prove he can throw the ball effectively. There's no doubting Battle's ability to run, but his big arm wasn't all that accurate during last season. Davie expects Battle to demonstrate more confidence but acknowledges his passing must improve.

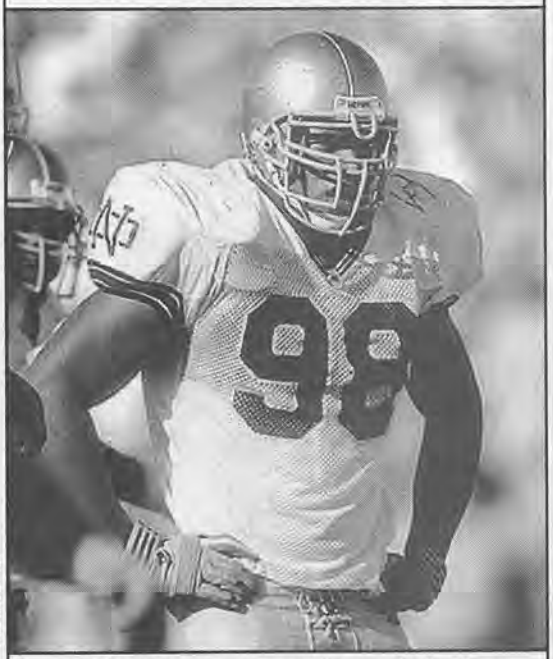
Defensive philosophy: Irish fans might not believe it, but Davie and coordinator Greg Mattison want Notre Dame to be an aggressive, attacking unit, much like their Texas A&M defenses of the early '90s. That's a hard sell after the Irish gave up 27.6 points and 383.7 yards a game in 1999. Notre Dame will make a minor tactical change this year, returning to the use of a nose guard along its front four, the better to free up T Anthony Weaver from double-teams. But without improvement by its cornerbacks and ends, Notre Dame will be no closer to its goal of defensive dominance than it was during '99's big-play-filled debacle.

Defensive stars: Davie expects big things from Es Grant Irons and Darrell Campbell. Campbell is particularly intriguing because he didn't play last year but has the speed and reckless attitude to become a productive pass rusher. Tony Driver makes the switch back from running back to free safety and could team with Gerome Sapp in an athletic back-line tandem. LB Anthony Denman is the top returning tackler (89).

Defensive concerns: The cornerbacks were awful last year. They couldn't handle man coverage and could have been nicknamed "Broadway" for allowing so many big plays. The chief culprit was Clifford Jefferson, who returns better from his '99 experience, at least according to the glass-is-half-full Davie. He'll be helped by Brock Williams, the Irish's best cover man who missed '99 because injury. If those two perform, Notre Dame's defense could improve considerably.

Special teams: The return teams could be explosive with Jones and Driver. P Joey Hildbold was solid last season, but he may be challenged by Nick Setta. The kicking games always seems to be a source of frustration. Setta and David Miller will compete for duties.

Head coach: Davie has retained grace under pressure during his rocky three-year reign. He has shown a willingness to makes changes when needed (he switched offensive coordinators from Jim Colletto to Kevin Rogers last season.)



PAUL NISELY / TSN

Young old hand: *With 20 career starts, Weaver, who played more than any other Irish freshman in '98, will anchor the defensive line.*

Schedule: It does Davie no favors. If Notre Dame survives its first five games (that means going 4-1 or 5-0), it could make waves against its last six foes.

Bottom line: Davie insists he isn't paying attention to those who say it's eight-wins-or-out for him. But the facts are cold and hard. Notre Dame lost its final four games of '99 and looked poor doing so. It must defend better, get strong play from Battle and be stronger along both lines. That sounds like a lot, but Davie has been building toward this year. If Notre Dame wins eight, Davie deserves an extension. It could happen. This team is more athletic than any of its recent predecessors and has more playmakers.

DEPTH CHART

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Javin Hunter	6-0	186	Jr.	Jay Johnson	5-11	191	Sr.
T	**Jordan Black**	**6-6**	**310**	**Jr.**	Neil Ambron	6-7	295	So.
G	**Jim Jones**	**6-3**	**307**	**Sr.**	Sean Mahan	6-3	288	Jr.
C	Jeff Faine	6-3	292	So.	Ryan Gillis	6-3	292	So.
G	**Mike Gandy**	**6-4**	**315**	**Sr.**	Rob Mowl	6-4	300	Sr.
T	Kurt Vollers	6-7	310	Sr.	Brennan Curtin	6-8	310	So.
TE	**Jabari Holloway**	**6-3**	**260**	**Sr.**	Dan O'Leary	6-3	260	Sr.
WR	**Joey Getherall**	**5-7**	**175**	**Sr.**	David Givens	6-0	217	Jr.
QB	Arnaz Battle	6-1	218	Jr.	Gary Godsey	6-7	240	So.
RB	Julius Jones	5-10	201	So.	**Tony Fisher**	**6-2**	**225**	**Jr.**
FB	Tom Lopienski	6-1	245	Jr.	Mike McNair	6-0	240	Jr.

Defense

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Darrell Campbell	6-4	275	So.	Jim Molinaro	6-6	240	So.
NT	Lance Legree	6-1	285	Sr.	B.J. Scott	6-3	290	Sr.
T	**Anthony Weaver**	**6-3**	**276**	**Jr.**	Andy Wisne	6-3	272	Sr.
E	**Grant Irons**	**6-5**	**275**	**Sr.**	Ryan Roberts	6-2	251	Jr.
ILB	**Anthony Denman**	**6-2**	**235**	**Sr.**	Anthony Brannan	5-10	215	Sr.
ILB	Carlos Pierre-Antoine	6-3	242	Jr.	Tyreo Harrison	6-2	242	Jr.
OLB	**Rocky Boiman**	**6-4**	**240**	**Jr.**	Justin Thomas	6-1	245	So.
CB	Jason Beckstrom	5-10	190	So.	**Clifford Jefferson**	**5-9**	**180**	**Jr.**
SS	Ron Israel	6-0	208	Sr.	Gerome Sapp	6-0	212	So.
FS	Tony Driver	6-1	215	Sr.	Justin Smith	5-11	193	Sr.
CB	Brock Williams	5-10	190	Sr.	Albert Poree	5-10	191	So.

Special Teams

K	Nick Setta	5-11	175	So.	P	Nick Setta	5-11	175	So.	**Joey Hildbold**	**5-10**	**190**	**So.**

2 Navy

MIDSHIPMEN DATA

NATIONAL RANK 75

Coach: Charlie Weatherbie (29-28, 5 years; 44-47 overall, 8 years)
1999 record: 5-7
Site: Annapolis, Md.
Stadium: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial (grass, 30,000)
Last bowl appearance: 1996

SCHEDULE

S2—Temple
S16—at Georgia Tech
S23—at Boston College
S30—TCU
O7—at Air Force
O14—Notre Dame
O21—Rutgers
O28—Toledo
N11—at Tulane
N18—Wake Forest
D2—Army

Offensive philosophy: Unlike many teams, which spread the field to pass, the Middies spread 'em out and run. Their option-based attack makes use of many formations and doesn't force its lighter line to play the power game. When Navy passes, it counts on man-to-man coverage because of the formation and the element of surprise.
Offensive stars: The Middies discovered a quarterback last year when Brian Madden relieved Brian Broadwater and led the nation's passers in rushing. An elusive option quarterback, Madden topped 100 yards in all five games he started. FB Raheem Lambert is ready for a run at 1,000 yards, and RB Dre Brittingham has speed to burn. T Hoot Stahl is a star-in-waiting.
Offensive concerns: Madden needs to improve his throwing. WR Brandon Rampani makes big plays but has yet to prove he's a consistent producer. Up front, the Middies must replace four starters.
Defensive philosophy: Navy switched to a 3-4 last year, the better to take advantage of its linebacking riches. It also allowed the Middies to move around and avoid relying on their front, which usually is overmatched.
Defensive stars: There may not be a more productive safety in the nation than Chris Lepore, who had 127 tackles last year. And coach Charlie Weatherbie has trouble finding something junior LB Shaka Martin can't do. He's quick enough to rush the passer and handle coverage, and strong enough to mix it up with tight ends against the run. The Middies are strong on the inside, too, with Ryan Hamilton and Daryl Hill, and E Brad Wimsatt has the quickness to make trouble in backfields.
Defensive concerns: Foes completed 57.1 percent of their throws against Navy last year and were picked off only 11 times. The front three is shaky, aside from Wimsatt, and could be vulnerable against the run.
Bottom line: The Middies should be improved, but it might not show because of a brutal schedule that includes four bowl teams and Notre Dame, which Navy hasn't beaten since 1963. Expect the Midshipmen to run efficiently. But the key to the offense will be Madden's development as a passer. The defense must improve against the pass and force more turnovers. Expect a run at a winning record, but anything more than six wins would be remarkable.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brandon Rampani	6-0	197	Jr.
T	**Ron Winchester**	**6-2**	**279**	**Sr.**
G	**Philip Yeh**	**6-4**	**285**	**Sr.**
C	Chad Adams	6-2	280	Sr.
G	Scott Swantner	6-4	293	Sr.
T	**Hoot Stahl**	**6-6**	**300**	**Sr.**
WR	**Brian Williams**	**6-0**	**194**	**Sr.**
QB	**Brian Madden**	**6-1**	**221**	**Jr.**
RB	**Dre Brittingham**	**5-10**	**180**	**Jr.**
RB	Gene Reese	5-9	175	So.
FB	**Raheem Lambert**	**5-10**	**207**	**Jr.**

Defense

E	**Brad Wimsatt**	**6-3**	**270**	**Sr.**
E	Michael Wagoner	6-2	253	Jr.
NG	Juan Morejon	5-10	268	So.
OLB	**Shaka Martin**	**6-2**	**233**	**Jr.**
OLB	Rashad Jones	6-2	235	Sr.
LB	**Daryl Hill**	**6-0**	**230**	**Sr.**
LB	**Ryan Hamilton**	**6-2**	**230**	**Sr.**
CB	**Davede Alexander**	**5-9**	**165**	**Sr.**
SS	DeJuan Cromer	5-9	191	Jr.
FS	**Chris Lepore**	**6-0**	**198**	**Sr.**
CB	**Bas Williams**	**5-9**	**189**	**Jr.**

Special Teams

K	David Hills	6-1	205	Jr.
P	Beau Hufstetler	5-11	186	Sr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

3 Central Florida

KNIGHTS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 98

Coach: Mike Kruczek (13-9, 2 years)
1999 record: 4-7
Site: Orlando, Fla.
Stadium: Florida Citrus Bowl (grass, 70,188)
Last postseason appearance: 1993

SCHEDULE

S2—at Georgia Tech
S9—Northwestern State
S16—at Akron
S23—William & Mary
S30—at Eastern Michigan
O7—at Northern Illinois
O14—Eastern Kentucky
O21—Louisiana-Monroe
O28—at Alabama
N4—at Louisiana Tech
N11—Virginia Tech

Offensive philosophy: Coach Mike Kruczek says he didn't want to put too much pressure on first-time starting quarterback Vic Penn in 1999, but Penn averaged 41.4 attempts per game. The Golden Knights want to fire it all over the place, and though they have made a commitment to the run, they will rise or fall through the air.
Offensive stars: Penn had a great debut last season, throwing for 3,078 yards and only 11 interceptions. Expect even more from him this year because he'll be more familiar with the offense. Penn can move well and has enough arm to make all the throws. Expect WRs Kenny Clark and Tyson Hinshaw to catch around 70 passes each. RB Edward Mack is productive, and C Chris Lorenti is an anchor.
Offensive concerns: The line was bad last year, and its performance during the spring didn't inspire confidence. The Knights lost line coach Paul Lounsberry to South Carolina in March. Kruczek hopes three junior college tackles can make an impact. If not, Penn might be running for his life—again.
Defensive philosophy: The Knights play a 4-3 that doesn't feature many surprises. UCF plays some man coverage, although that could change because of improved depth in the secondary. Central Florida is extremely light up front, so quickness is emphasized.
Defensive stars: T Josh McKibben made 68 tackles last year and had eight stops behind the line. The secondary is filled with proven performers, most notably SS Damian Demps and FS Ricot Joseph, a special teams demon. Kruczek is high on CBs Asante Samuel and Travis Fisher.
Defensive concerns: The coach isn't enthusiastic about the linebackers. Tito Rodriguez was moved from the outside to the middle but needs to look as good on the field as he does during strength and speed testing. LB Tony Hardman has potential, if healthy, as does fellow LB Willie Davis.
Bottom line: This is the last year UCF will play I-AA teams, so it decided to load up with three of them. So much for a bowl invitation, particularly with Georgia Tech, Alabama and Virginia Tech looming. The Knights should finish above .500 and could threaten eight wins. If the offensive line gives Penn time and the defensive front seven develops, this will be a pretty good team. If not, UCF will find itself on the wrong side of some shootouts.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Tyson Hinshaw	6-0	165	Sr.
T	Patrick Jenrette	6-7	380	Jr.
G	**Garrett McCray**	**6-4**	**300**	**So.**
C	**Chris Lorenti**	**6-5**	**320**	**Sr.**
G	**John Beauchamp**	**6-4**	**285**	**Sr.**
T	**Brian Huff**	**6-6**	**285**	**So.**
TE	Mario Jackson	6-2	230	So.
WR	**Kenny Clark**	**6-1**	**210**	**Sr.**
QB	**Vic Penn**	**6-1**	**180**	**Sr.**
RB	**Edward Mack**	**5-9**	**185**	**Sr.**
RB	Dwight Collins	5-10	215	Sr.

Defense

E	Don Page	6-3	260	*Fr.
E	Elton Patterson	6-2	255	So.
T	**Josh McKibben**	**6-3**	**265**	**Jr.**
T	Jeff Mauldin	6-3	265	Sr.
OLB	Willie Davis	5-11	215	Jr.
MLB	Tito Rodriguez	6-2	235	Jr.
OLB	**Tony Hardman**	**6-0**	**220**	**Jr.**
CB	**Davin Bush**	**5-8**	**160**	**Sr.**
SS	**Damian Demps**	**6-1**	**185**	**Sr.**
FS	**Ricot Joseph**	**6-0**	**190**	**Jr.**
CB	Travis Fisher	5-10	175	Jr.

Special Teams

K	**Javier Beorlegui**	**6-1**	**225**	**Jr.**
P	**Javier Beorlegui**	**6-1**	**225**	**Jr.**

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

4 Louisiana Tech

BULLDOGS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 102

Coach: Jack Bicknell (8-3, 1 year)
1999 record: 8-3
Site: Ruston, La.
Stadium: Joe Aillet (grass, 30,600)
Last bowl appearance: 1990

SCHEDULE

A26—Miss. Valley State
S2—at Kansas State
S9—at Penn State
S16—Stephen F. Austin
S23—at Tulsa
O7—at Middle Tenn. St.
O14—La.-Lafayette
O21—at Auburn
O28—at Miami (Fla.)
N4—Central Florida
N11—at La.-Monroe
N18—at Hawaii

Offensive philosophy: Coach Jack Bicknell puts it best when he says, "We're still going to throw it all over the place," despite the graduation of all-time passing leader Tim Rattay. The Bulldogs spread the field with four or five wideouts and attempt 50 to 60 passes a game. Purists hate it, probably because they wouldn't like to defend it.

Offensive stars: WRs James Jordan and Delwyn Daigre could catch 100 balls each this year, and Sean Cangelosi grabbed 62 last year and has big-play potential. All-purpose specialist John Simon runs well and is a fine possession target. Bicknell thinks T Damon Lavergne could be great.

Offensive concerns: Even though Brian Stallworth looked sharp in relief of Rattay in a start last year, there's no way he can replicate Rattay's production. But Stallworth brings an added dimension to the offense: speed. Look for him to roll out, sprint out and just plain run. Still, he needs to be excellent immediately because the offense depends so much on the quarterback. It would help him if the line, with four new starters, could develop quickly.

Defensive philosophy: The Bulldogs play a 3-4 but generally have lighter linebackers than most teams and turn them loose to use their speed.

Defensive stars: LB Quincy Stewart piled up 112 tackles last year and can get to the ball just about anywhere. Bobby Gray is a big hitter despite weighing just 209 pounds. Look for Curtis Randall to emerge as a force at one outside linebacker position, and FS Michael John Lenard has potential to star.

Defensive concerns: Tech must rebuild a line that wasn't effective last year. Bicknell will rely on a quartet of newcomers to help, most notably junior college E Clint Walker and T Booker T. Washington. The secondary needs to improve its big-play ability. Although rival passers connected for only 12 touchdowns in '99, the Bulldogs picked off just 12 passes.

Bottom line: It's a good thing the Bulldogs are moving to the WAC in 2001 because they can't take many more seasons with schedules like this. Tech visits Penn State, Kansas State, Auburn and Miami, a tour worth about $1.2 million but not rich in victory possibilities. Because of that, figure on a 6-5 season, but seven wins may be possible. As always, the Bulldogs will score. Tech's final year as an independent will be fun, if not bowl-worthy.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Allen Stark	6-2	187	Jr.
T	Logan Hulett	6-5	287	Jr.
G	**Randy Richard**	6-4	310	Jr.
C	Kiso Aab	6-1	290	Jr.
G	Shannon Babineaux	6-3	312	Jr.
T	*Damon Lavergne	6-6	364	Fr.
TE	**David Newman**	6-6	250	Sr.
WR	**Delwyn Dalgre**	5-11	210	Jr.
QB	Brian Stallworth	6-0	209	Jr.
RB	**John Simon**	5-9	192	Jr.
WR	**James Jordan**	6-1	232	Jr.

Defense

E	**Quincy Stewart**	6-0	203	Sr.
E	Carlin Thomas	6-3	235	So.
T	Quincy Myles	6-2	308	So.
NT	Michael Boone	6-2	250	Sr.
OLB	**Brian Bradford**	6-0	210	Sr.
MLB	**Bobby Gray**	6-1	209	Jr.
OLB	Curtis Randall	6-2	218	So.
CB	Willie Sheppard	5-9	200	So.
SS	Montoya Gipson	6-1	203	Jr.
FS	**Michael J. Lenard**	6-0	202	So.
CB	**Rod Pernetter**	5-10	190	Sr.

Special Teams

K	Ross Bernal	5-8	170	So.
P	John Pruitt	6-2	200	So.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

5 La.-Monroe

INDIANS DATA

NATIONAL RANK 108

Coach: Bobby Keasler (5-6, 1 year; 83-40-2 overall, 10 years)
1999 record: 5-6
Site: Monroe, La.
Stadium: Malone (grass, 30,427)
Last postseason appearance: 1993

SCHEDULE

S2—at Minnesota
S9—at Memphis
S16—Nicholls State
S23—at Tennessee
S30—Southwest Texas
O7—at Arkansas
O14—at Middle Tenn. St.
O21—at Central Florida
N4—Louisiana-Lafayette
N11—Louisiana Tech
N18—Wofford

Offensive philosophy: When Bobby Keasler took over, he vowed to play rough and tough with a physical line. He learned quickly that the Tribe wasn't ready for that—and may never be. So, he junked his preferred style for the spread and let QB Andy Chance use his athletic ability.

Offensive stars: Chance has shown an ability to run and throw. Now, he must work on consistency. Chance has to improve his reads on the option and reduce his interceptions. But he has plenty of promise, particularly in the new system. A slimmed-down Padraic McGinnis is an anchor at tackle, and Sean Brown is a solid possession receiver.

Offensive concerns: The Tribe is woefully thin at running back, not the best thing for a team that has struggled to run the past two seasons. If Mark Henderson doesn't step up, ULM will be weak on the ground again. The line lacks depth and experience, and there's no proven game-breaking receivers.

Defensive philosophy: The Indians use a 4-2-5 configuration, with a second strong safety serving as a rover. They like to apply pressure from the outside and usually have an end who piles up sacks. The extra defensive back helps keep completion percentages down, but this team is soft against the run.

Defensive stars: LBs Otis Robinson and Carey Johnson lack size, but they're quick and productive. SS Cedric Robinson led the team in tackles last year and had nine stops behind the line.

Defensive concerns: There are many. Although the line has familiar names, no one was productive last year. Someone must step up to replace E Jonathan Foster (12 sacks). The secondary was expected to be a strength until CB Pat Dennis declared for the NFL draft a year early. The Tribe needs contributions from junior college CB Mark Potter and redshirt freshman FS Seneca Lee.

Bottom line: The Tribe plays three I-AA clubs, assuring some success. With the likes of Middle Tennessee and Louisiana-Lafayette on the schedule, another five-win season is likely. ULM may even win six. But this program is still in need of a considerable talent upgrade. This year's recruiting class was a good first step, but Louisiana-Monroe will be young in most backup positions and needs a few years of growth to become capable of beating more than just I-A bottom-feeders and I-AA patsies.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	*H.J. Adams	5-10	180	Fr.
T	Bryan Oes	6-5	285	Jr.
G	**Roderick Daniel**	**6-2**	**295**	**Sr.**
C	*Robert Aguirre	6-3	280	Fr.
G	**Larry Pink**	**6-3**	**260**	**Jr.**
T	**Padraic McGinnis**	**6-5**	**330**	**Sr.**
TE	Ben Wright	6-3	250	So.
WR	**Sean Brown**	**5-9**	**165**	**So.**
QB	**Andy Chance**	**6-2**	**200**	**So.**
RB	Mark Henderson	6-0	215	Sr.
FB	**Tim Lyons**	**6-0**	**235**	**Sr.**

Defense

E	**Ron Phenix**	**6-2**	**270**	**Sr.**
E	Mike DeHorney	6-1	246	Sr.
NG	**Bart Butcher**	**6-1**	**280**	**Sr.**
T	Donald Malveaux	6-2	280	Jr.
OLB	Carey Johnson	6-1	215	Sr.
MLB	**Otis Robinson**	**5-11**	**215**	**Jr.**
CB	Karlton Washington	5-8	175	So.
SS	Cedric Robinson	6-0	200	Sr.
SS	**Dedrick Buckels**	**5-11**	**205**	**Jr.**
FS	*Seneca Lee	5-10	165	Fr.
CB	*Henry Whitehead	5-11	165	Fr.

Special Teams

K	**Justin Mink**	**5-9**	**155**	**Jr.**
P	*Chris Robinson	6-2	190	Fr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

6 La.-Lafayette

CAJUNS DATA

Coach: Jerry Baldwin (2-9, 1 year)
1999 record: 2-9
Site: Lafayette, La.
Stadium: Cajun Field (grass, 31,000)
Last postseason appearance: none

SCHEDULE

S2—Sam Houston State
S9—at Texas
S16—at Texas Tech
S23—Northwestern State
S30—at UAB
O7—Tulane
O14—at Louisiana Tech
O28—North Texas
N4—Louisiana-Monroe
N18—Middle Tenn. St.

NATIONAL RANK 112

Offensive philosophy: Unlike many of their independent brethren, the Cajuns would prefer to establish a power ground game—with some option tenets—instead of tossing the ball all over the place. Part of that comes from Jerry Baldwin's desire to line up and play smash-mouth, even if Louisiana-Lafayette isn't blessed with the personnel to do that. Part of that comes from the fact QB Derek Dyer completed just 44.3 percent of his passes last year.

Offensive stars: RB Darren Brister has the ability to churn out 100-yard games, provided he gets breathing room. He finished with 729 yards last year, but don't expect him to go the distance too often. The receivers have potential because of Marcus Wilridge and Desmond Williams. If Dyer can get the ball near them, they'll catch it. The line isn't great, but T Jonathon Raush showed potential during his 1999 debut.

Offensive concerns: Let's start under center, where Dyer has ability to run, but his passing is weak. He threw just four touchdown passes and had 10 interceptions. Even with four starters returning, the line is in trouble. It surrendered 42 sacks last year and Cajuns backs averaged just 2.7 yards per carry.

Defensive philosophy: Cynics might say the Cajuns' goal is to let rivals pile up yards and points at will. That's not fair, although rivals' averages of 439.1 yards and 37.7 points back up the wisecracks. The Cajuns play a 4-3 without much flash, so don't expect many big plays.

Defensive stars: LB Travis Schwartz made 64 tackles in just eight games last year and has the ability to get penetration on occasion. The secondary is fairly strong against the run because of safeties Kyries Hebert and Matt Cieslak and CB Charles Tillman. E Walter Sampson tied for second on the team in tackles for loss last year with eight.

Defensive concerns: The secondary needs to tighten up against the pass after allowing rivals to complete 55.2 percent of their throws last year. And something has to be done about the 5.1 yards per carry averaged by opposing backs. No wonder the Ragin' Cajuns gave up 32 rushing touchdowns last year.

Bottom line: Thank goodness the Cajuns play two I-AA teams this year, which will give them a chance to win four or five games. Louisiana-Lafayette has a feeble offense, a philanthropic defense and a roster-wide talent deficit.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Desmond Williams**	**6-2**	**210**	**Sr.**
T	**Jonathon Raush**	**6-7**	**285**	**So.**
G	**Wayne Smith**	**6-1**	**300**	**Sr.**
C	**David Gaar**	**6-2**	**264**	**Jr.**
G	Jesse Harmon	6-5	315	Sr.
T	**Henry Hellestine**	**6-6**	**303**	**Sr.**
TE	Brian Jones	6-2	206	So.
WR	Cory Scott	6-3	201	So.
QB	**Derek Dyer**	**6-1**	**205**	**Jr.**
RB	**John Bernard**	**6-1**	**205**	**Sr.**
FB	Blake Bourque	6-1	225	So.

Defense

E	*Emmitt Holliday	6-4	214	Fr.
E	Derrick Marshall	6-2	255	Jr.
T	Charley Smith	6-4	261	So.
NG	Chris Gistorb	6-2	270	Jr.
OLB	**Travis Schwartz**	**6-0**	**220**	**Sr.**
MLB	Kinante Venbile	5-11	222	Jr.
OLB	**Victor Hart**	**6-0**	**212**	**Sr.**
CB	**Charles Tillman**	**6-1**	**180**	**So.**
SS	**Matt Cieslak**	**6-0**	**205**	**Jr.**
FS	**Kyries Hebert**	**6-2**	**198**	**Jr.**
CB	Mike Merchant	5-10	165	Sr.

Special Teams

K	**Brent Bergeron**	**5-9**	**157**	**So.**
P	**Grant Autrey**	**6-1**	**200**	**So.**

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

7 Mid. Tenn. St.

BLUE RAIDERS DATA

Coach: Andy McCollum (3-8, 1 year)
1999 record: 3-8
Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Stadium: Floyd (turf, 30,788)
Last postseason appearance: 1994

SCHEDULE

S2—at Illinois
S9—at Florida
S16—Murray State
S23—at Maryland
O7—Louisiana Tech
O14—Louisiana-Monroe
O21—at UAB
O28—at Mississippi State
N4—at Connecticut
N11—South Florida
N18—Louisiana-Lafayette

NATIONAL RANK 113

Offensive philosophy: Even though coach Andy McCollum's top priority this spring was to develop toughness along the line, the better to run the ball, this still is a pass-first attack. When MTSU runs, it does from a spread formation, not a power set, because it lacks the muscle to do so.

Offensive stars: Even though QB Wes Counts isn't fleet, he had some big passing games last year and finished with 2,603 yards. WRs Kendall Newson, Tyrone Calico and Hansford Johnson are proven targets, though none is a breakaway threat. RBs Dwone Hicks and Jamison Palmer are strong and quick.

Offensive concerns: Counts isn't the prototype for McCollum's offense because of his inability to run and medium-range arm. That's why Mississippi transfer Lance Phillips and junior college import Jason Johnson will have a chance to win the job. All five line starters return, but MTSU averaged 111.4 yards rushing last year, so few jobs are safe. Look for junior college tackle David Coy and redshirt freshmen Josh Willoughby and Brandon Westbrook to get long looks.

Defensive philosophy: After surrendering 445.8 yards and 34.5 points per game, one might think MTSU was just winging it. But McCollum favors a 3-4 with multiple-front looks. The Raiders would like to press opponents, but they don't have the talent to do so yet, so expect to see a lot of zones behind conservative pass-rush schemes.

Defensive stars: E Curtis Daniely and T Ray Miller have potential, and S Mario Kelso and Delvin Pikes were 1-2 on the team in tackles last year. McCollum expects big things from incoming freshman CB Muhammad Rashada, who might make his early mark as a return man.

Defensive concerns: Where to begin? The Blue Raiders allowed 212.4 yards a game on the ground and 4.8 yards per carry, so the front seven needs a big-time upgrade. The youngsters will help, but it will be a few years before MTSU will be physical enough to handle the tougher teams on its schedule. The secondary isn't bad, but it isn't a playmaking bunch.

Bottom line: Three I-AA opponents soften an otherwise demanding schedule. The future looks good, particularly with next year's move to the Sun Belt, but expect the Raiders to take baby steps. Four wins this year would be great.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Tyrone Calico**	**6-4**	**206**	**So.**
T	**Chris Howington**	**6-3**	**278**	**Sr.**
G	**Reggie Primas**	**6-1**	**286**	**Sr.**
C	**Brock Lillis**	**6-2**	**282**	**Sr.**
G	**Gil Matias**	**6-2**	**302**	**Sr.**
T	**Barry Hall**	**6-6**	**292**	**Sr.**
TE	Xavier Hatnot	6-3	235	Sr.
WR	**Kendall Newson**	**6-2**	**185**	**Jr.**
WR	**Hansford Johnson**	**5-8**	**162**	**Jr.**
QB	**Wes Counts**	**6-1**	**184**	**Jr.**
RB	Jamison Palmer	6-0	211	Sr.

Defense

E	**Terrence King**	**6-1**	**282**	**Sr.**
E	Curtis Daniely	6-5	275	So.
T	**Martez Phelps**	**6-2**	**279**	**Sr.**
OLB	Glen Jones	6-1	230	Sr.
OLB	**Marcus Harvey**	**6-3**	**220**	**Sr.**
MLB	**Keith Pauldo**	**5-11**	**248**	**Sr.**
OLB	Chris Gatlin	6-1	215	So.
CB	**Jykine Bradley**	**5-10**	**172**	**Jr.**
SS	Delvin Pikes	5-11	172	Sr.
FS	**Mario Kelso**	**6-0**	**191**	**Sr.**
CB	**Jermaine Francis**	**5-1**	**189**	**Sr.**

Special Teams

K	*Robert Billingsly	6-0	190	Fr.
P	*Robert Billingsly	6-0	190	Fr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

8 Connecticut

HUSKIES DATA

NATIONAL RANK 115

Coach: Randy Edsall (4-7, 1 year)
1999 record: 4-7
Site: Storrs, Conn.
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 16,200)
Last league title: none

SCHEDULE

S2—at Eastern Michigan
S9—Colgate
S16—at Buffalo
S23—Northeastern
S30—at Louisville
O7—at Boston College
O21—at Akron
O28—South Florida
N4—Middle Tennessee
N11—Rhode Island
N18—at Ball State

Offensive philosophy: The Huskies use an I formation base but can go to a one-back formation and do things to spread the field. Second-year coach Randy Edsall admits that a lack of talent will force Connecticut to try some things with personnel groupings and schemes to keep opponents off balance.

Offensive stars: Edsall believes WR John Fitzsimmons, who ran a 4.5 on pro timing day, can play professionally. To impress the NFL, he'll have to deal with a parade of double-teams. RB Taber Small is a solid runner, but he lacks game-breaking speed.

Offensive concerns: During spring drills, Connecticut installed JC import Ryan Tracey (who enrolled in January) as the first-team quarterback. Edsall likes Tracey's arm and smarts, but there will be a period of acclimation. The Connecticut line has heft but not much height. That will cause trouble against more physical fronts. And there's a dearth of speed among the returning players, a condition that could force Edsall to play several freshmen.

Defensive philosophy: The Huskies operate out of a 4-3 base and try to use multiple fronts and coverages to dictate how offenses must behave. Because Connecticut lacks size, it must try a lot of different strategies instead of lining up and to taking on its opponents' best shots.

Defensive stars: CB Roy Hopkins may be only 5-8, but he can cover and tackle. Size isn't a big plus for T Greg Smoot, either, but he can find the ball. So can LB Brandon Smith, who was named last year's defensive MVP despite missing four games due to a concussion. Edsall moved Jamar Wilkins from linebacker to end in an attempt to infuse the front four with more speed.

Defensive concerns: The line averages 250 pounds a man, something that could be a huge liability against power ground attacks. Both of Connecticut's starting safeties (Jamal Lundy and Antonio Grant) are sophomores.

Bottom line: Connecticut makes the jump to I-A with the same problems as its predecessors: insufficient numbers and below-average talent. The Huskies play eight I-A clubs , and while none is of the top-25 variety, each has more scholarship players and better depth. But this is a building process, which shouldn't be complete until the middle of the decade, when Connecticut hopes to join the Big East.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	**Wes Timko**	**6-2**	**180**	**So.**
T	C.J. Hessel	6-4	273	Jr.
G	**Corey Derfuss**	**6-2**	**84**	**Sr.**
C	Steve Darby	6-3	264	Sr.
G	**Mark Campoll**	**6-4**	**291**	**Jr.**
TE	Rashad Drayton	6-4	249	Jr.
WR	**John Fitzsimmons**	**6-2**	**197**	**Sr.**
QB	Ryan Tracey	6-3	216	Jr.
RB	**Taber Small**	**5-9**	**191**	**Jr.**
FB	Terry McClowry	6-2	234	Fr.

Defense

E	Hakeem Kashama	6-3	260	So.
E	**Jamar Wilkins**	**6-3**	**231**	**Sr.**
T	**Ronel Jumpp**	**6-0**	**257**	**Sr.**
T	**Greg Smoot**	**6-3**	**252**	**So.**
OLB	**Uyi Osunde**	**6-3**	**221**	**So.**
ILB	Jamie Lenkaitis	5-11	229	Jr.
OLB	**Brandon Smith**	**6-1**	**223**	**Sr.**
CB	Carl Bradford	5-8	170	Jr.
FS	Antonio Grant	5-11	179	So.
SS	**Jamal Lundy**	**5-11**	**198**	**So.**
CB	**Roy Hopkins**	**5-8**	**174**	**Jr.**

Special Teams

K	**Marc Kickok**	**5-11**	**167**	**So.**
P	Randy McGillivray	5-11	185	Jr.

**Returning starters in bold * Redshirt*

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The Sporting News I-AA All-American teams

By Kevin Gore, Nacogdoches (Texas) Daily Sentinel

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE					
WR	Jamal White	6-0	190	Jr.	Towson
WR	Murle Sango	5-9	175	Jr.	Villanova
TE	Marcus Holbert	6-4	240	Jr.	Alcorn
T	Mike Rodbro	6-4	290	Sr.	Illinois State
T	Philip Duplantis	6-2	270	Sr.	Samford
G	Thatcher Szalay	6-5	295	Jr.	Montana
G	Bryan Metts	6-2	285	Sr.	Appalachian State
C	Chris Stewart	6-0	270	Jr.	Furman
QB	Drew Miller	6-1	195	Sr.	Montana
RB	Adrian Peterson	5-10	207	Jr.	Georgia Southern
RB	Charles Roberts	5-6	175	Sr.	Sacramento State
DEFENSE					
E	Jauron Dailey	6-3	240	Sr.	Florida A&M
E	Mike Cecere	6-3	275	Sr.	Delaware
T	Jamie Lovern	6-3	295	Sr.	Appalachian State
T	Chris Morant	6-1	235	Sr.	James Madison
LB	Kole Ayi	6-0	215	Sr.	Massachusetts
LB	Edgerton Hartwell	6-2	235		Western Illinois
LB	Afa Faraimo	6-1	195	Sr.	Northern Arizona
FS	Corey Hall	6-4	190	Sr.	Appalachian State
SS	Vince Huntsberger	5-11	195	Jr.	Montana
CB	Sam Young	5-11	180	Sr.	Illinois State
CB	Jerod Jones	5-11	175	Sr.	McNeese State
SPECIALISTS					
K	Brett Sterba	6-0	180	Sr.	William & Mary
P	Brian Bivens	6-2	190	Soph.	Murray State
KR	Avion Black	6-0	180	Sr.	Tennessee State

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE					
WR	Eddie Berlin	6-0	192	Sr.	Northern Iowa
WR	Coz DeMatteo	6-2	210	Jr.	Chattanooga
TE	J.R. Niklos	6-3	215	Jr.	Western Illinois
T	Josh Moore	6-4	290	Sr.	Furman
T	Greg Fedor	6-4	275	Sr.	VMI
G	Luke Fritz	6-4	295	Sr.	Eastern Washington
G	Eric Beatty	6-4	300	Sr.	Richmond
C	Brandon Myhand	6-3	282	Sr.	Samford
QB	Chris Sanders	6-1	210	Sr.	Chattanooga
RB	Marcel Shipp	6-0	208	Sr.	Massachusetts
RB	Tony Taylor	5-9	185	Jr.	Northwestern State
DEFENSE					
E	Kwesi Solomon	6-3	270	Jr.	Villanova
E	Jeff Allen	6-3	265	Sr.	Eastern Washington
T	Tavita Tovio	6-0	262	Sr.	Southern Illinois
T	Tonga Mounga	6-4	315	Jr.	Southern Utah
LB	Derick Pack	6-1	205	Jr.	James Madison
LB	Will Bouton	6-2	225	Jr.	Furman
LB	Jason Neese	6-0	213	Jr.	Georgia Southern
FS	Ricky Crestwell	5-11	180	Sr.	Towson
SS	Jeremy Robinson	6-2	195	Jr.	Massachusetts
CB	David Gunn	5-8	160	Sr.	Northern Iowa
CB	John Williams	6-0	187	Jr.	Eastern Illinois
SPECIALISTS					
K	Josh Jones	5-10	165	Sr.	Western Carolina
P	Rick Barrow	6-3	228	Sr.	Southwest Texas
KR	Lamont Brightful	5-9	160	Sr.	Eastern Washington

Top Walter Payton Award Candidates

1. Adrian Peterson, RB, Georgia Southern: Will get bulk of carries for ground-oriented Eagles.
2. Charles Roberts, RB, Sacramento State: Coming off 22-TD, 2082-yard rushing campaign.
3. Marcel Shipp, RB, UMass: Versatile back who can run and catch.
4. Drew Miller, QB, Montana: Former BYU passer is a perfect fit for pass-happy Big Sky.
5. Kole Ayi, LB, UMass: East Coast offenses need beware.

TOP 25

1. GEORGIA SOUTHERN
RB Adrian Peterson and an improving defense give Eagles the top spot.

2. MONTANA
New coach Joe Glenn promises to keep fast-break, precision passing game.

3. MASSACHUSETTS
RB Marcel Shipp has 5,144 career rushing yards.

4. TROY STATE
Southland power preparing for jump to I-A.

5. ILLINOIS STATE
New coach Denver Johnson inherits 17 returning starters.

6. FLORIDA A&M
Rattlers just missed appearance in I-AA final last season.

7. APPALACHIAN STATE
Should be defensive force in power-packed Southern.

8. HOFSTRA
Dutchmen must replace QB Giovanni Carmazzi.

9. FURMAN
Returns talented RB Louis Ivory and QB Justin Hill.

10. NORTHERN IOWA
Highly-regarded passing game, led by QB Ryan Helming, highlights solid team.

11. YOUNGSTOWN
1999's I-AA runner-up will lean on defense.

12. SOUTHERN
Has won three straight SWAC titles.

13. PORTLAND STATE
Eighteen starters back from 8-3 team.

14. NORTHERN ARIZONA
New starters at QB, RB must deliver.

15. TENNESSEE STATE
Must replace passing QB Leon Murray.

16. JAMES MADISON
QBs should be healed after injury-plagued season.

17. JACKSON STATE
Returns strong defense from 9-3 team.

18. NORTH CAROLINA A&T
Traditionally a running team, Aggies hope to improve passing attack.

19. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Needs big year from QB Wes Pate now that TB position has thinned.

20. LEHIGH
Patriot team has question marks at QB, RB.

21. WILLIAM & MARY
Was 6-2 once David Corley took over at QB last season.

22. COLGATE
RB Randall Joseph shoulders Red Raiders' hopes in Patriot.

23. VILLANOVA
Return of RB Brian Westbook from medical redshirt season a big boost.

24. WESTERN ILLINOIS
RB Charles Thorp led Gateway in rushing last year.

25. DELAWARE
Won 45 games the past five years.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

The Sporting News Prime Prospects

The Sporting News asked five top recruiting "gurus" to provide lists of the top high school seniors at each position. We have compiled those rankings into one "master" list, which is the average of the five experts' rankings. The players are ranked overall, with each guru's ranking also shown.

KEY: BB—Bill Buchalter; TL—Tom Lemming; GW—G&W Recruiting Service; PS—PrepStar; RR—Rivals.com recruiting

QUARTERBACKS	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	BB	TL	GW	PS	RR
Brodie Croyle	6-3	205	Rainbow City, Ala./Westbrook Christ.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joe Mauer	6-4	210	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adrian McPherson	6-4	185	Bradenton, Fla./Southeast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Casey Paus	6-4	205	New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln Way	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bryan Randall	6-2	195	Williamsburg, Va./Bruton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aaron Alexander	6-3	185	Richmond, Va./ Henrico	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Justin Holland	6-4	195	Denver, Colo./Bear Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kyle Matter	6-4	205	Newhall, Calif./Hart	✓	✓	✓	✓	
D.J. Shockley	6-2	190	College Park, Ga./North Clayton	✓	✓	✓		✓
Paul Troth	6-5	205	Charlotte, N.C./Vance	✓	✓	✓		✓
Joseph Addai	6-2	195	Houston/Sharpstown	✓	✓	✓		
Matt Leinhart	6-5	210	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	✓	✓	✓		
Ingle Martin	6-3	190	Nashville, Tenn./Mont. Bell Aca.	✓		✓	✓	

RUNNING BACKS	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	BB	TL	GW	PS	RR
Cedric Benson	5-11	195	Midland, Te✓as/Lee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
James Butler	5-10	185	Oak Creek, Wis./Oak Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kevin Jones	6-1	215	Springfield, Pa./Cardinal O'Hara	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eric Shelton	6-2	235	Lelington, Ky./Bryan Station	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carnell Williams	6-1	195	Attalla, Ala./Etowah	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rikki Cook	6-1	235	Montclair, N.J./Montclair	✓	✓	✓		✓
Cedric Houston	6-0	200	Clarendon, Ark./Clarendon		✓	✓	✓	✓
De'Arrius Howard	6-0	205	W. Memphis, Ark./W. Memphis	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Damien Nash	5-11	190	St. Louis, Mo./Riverview Gardens		✓	✓	✓	✓
Jabari Davis	5-9	225	Tucker, Ga./Tucker		✓	✓		✓
Maurice Hall	5-10	185	Columbus, Ohio/Brookhaven		✓	✓		✓
Tramaine Hall	5-10	175	Deerfield Bch., Fla./Deerfield Bch.		✓	✓		✓
DeAndre Scott	5-10	175	Mission Hills, Calif./Alemany	✓			✓	✓
Seymore Shaw	6-0	205	Shawnee, Okla./Shawnee		✓	✓	✓	

WIDE RECEIVERS	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	BB	TL	GW	PS	RR
Montrell Jones	6-3	185	Louisville, Ky./Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Collins	6-6	215	Commerce, Ga./Commerce	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Roscoe Crosby	6-2	195	Union, S.C./Union	✓	✓	✓		✓
Lynzell Jackson	6-3	175	Tempe, Ariz./Tempe		✓	✓	✓	✓
Jerome Janet	5-11	185	Tulsa, Okla./Union		✓	✓	✓	✓
Anthony Mix	6-3	190	Bay Minette, Ala./Baldwin Co.	✓	✓	✓		✓
Carlos Campbell	6-0	190	Hampton, Va./Hampton	✓		✓	✓	

TIGHT ENDS	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	BB	TL	GW	PS	RR
Patrick Estes	6-6	240	Richmond, Va./Benedictine	✓		✓		✓
Erik Gill	6-6	260	Belle Vernon, Pa./Belle Vernon	✓	✓		✓	

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	BB	TL	GW	PS	RR
Mark LeVoir	6-7	295	Eden Prairie, Minn./Eden Prairie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bob Clearly	6-7	275	Lake Elsinore, Calif./Temescal Canyon	✓	✓	✓		✓
Blake Larson	6-7	295	Atlantic, Iowa/Atlantic		✓	✓	✓	✓
Tyler Reed	6-5	295	Pittsburgh, Pa./Thomas Jefferson	✓		✓	✓	✓
Andrew Whitworth	6-7	300	West Monroe, La./West Monroe		✓	✓	✓	✓
Collin Barker	6-9	305	Wortham, Telas/Wortham	✓	✓		✓	
Anttaj Hawthorne	6-4	285	Hamden, Conn./Hamden	✓	✓	✓		
Jami Hightower	6-6	290	Jacksonville, Telas/Jacksonville	✓		✓		✓

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	BB	TL	GW	PS	RR
Titus Adams	6-4	275	Omaha, Neb./Creighton Prep	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shaun Cody	6-5	250	Hacienca Heights, Calif./Los Altos	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orien Harris	6-3	280	Newark, Del./Newark	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tommie Harris	6-3	275	Killeen, Texas/Killeen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pat Massey	6-8	235	Cleveland, Ohio/St. Ignatius	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charles Rush	6-4	280	Erie, Pa./Cathedral Prep	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lorenzo Alexander	6-3	280	Berkeley, Calif./St. Mary's	✓		✓	✓	✓
Simon Fraser	6-6	240	Columbus, Ohio/Upper Arlington	✓		✓	✓	✓
Zachary Giles	6-4	275	Marshfield, Mass./Marshfield	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Matthias Askew	6-6	270	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Dillard	✓		✓		✓
George Gause	6-5	235	Conway, S.C./Conway		✓		✓	✓
Kaelen Jakes	6-4	260	Placentia, Calif./Valencia			✓	✓	✓
Jeff Littlejohn	6-3	285	Gaffney, S.C./Gaffney	✓	✓	✓		
Robert Taylor	6-4	300	Oak Creek, Wis./Oak Creek	✓	✓	✓		

LINEBACKERS	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	BB	TL	GW	PS	RR
Reggie Arden	6-5	225	Ironton, Ohio/Ironton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chauncey Davis	6-2	230	Auburndale, Fla./Auburndale	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lamarcus Rowell	6-4	220	Opelika, Ala./Opelika	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marquis Elmore	6-4	225	Folkston, Ga./Charlton County	✓	✓	✓		✓
Chad Anderson	6-3	235	Canton, Ohio/McKinley		✓	✓	✓	
Brent Grover	6-4	220	Fort Thomas, Ky./Highlands		✓	✓	✓	
Derrick Johnson	6-4	210	Waco, Texas/Waco	✓			✓	✓
Scott McClintock	6-3	235	Belle Vernon, Pa./Belle Vernon	✓		✓		✓

DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	BB	TL	GW	PS	RR
Jerome Carter	6-1	205	Lake City, Fla./Columbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ernest Shazor	6-3	180	Detroit, Mich./Martin Luther King	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Craphonso Thorpe	6-2	175	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matt Ware	6-3	195	Los Angeles/Loyola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lionel Williams	6-4	240	Addison, Ill./Addison Trail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brett Bell	6-0	185	Wheaton, Ill./Warrenville South	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mike Robinson	6-2	210	Richmond, Va./Varina	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Reggie Williams	6-4	215	Lakewood, Wash./Lakewood		✓	✓	✓	✓
Quinton Burrell	6-0	175	Decatur, Ga./Southwest DeKalb	✓	✓	✓		
Dustin Fox	6-0	190	Canton, Ohio/Glenoak		✓	✓		✓
Dominic Robinson	6-2	200	Diamond Bar, Calif./Diamond Bar	✓			✓	✓

Five-star studs

The following players from our Prime Prospects list received mention by all five of our gurus, denoting them as the nation's top prospects.

Quarterbacks			
Brodie Croyle	6-3	205	Rainbow City, Ala./Westbrook Christian
Joe Mauer	6-4	210	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
Adrian McPherson	6-4	185	Bradenton, Fla./Southeast
Casey Paus	6-4	205	New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln Way
Bryan Randall	6-2	195	Williamsburg, Va./Bruton
Cedric Benson	5-11	195	Midland, Texas/Lee
Running backs			
James Butler	5-10	185	Oak Creek, Wis./Oak Creek
Kevin Jones	6-1	215	Springfield, Pa./Cardinal O'Hara
Eric Shelton	6-2	235	Lexington, Ky./Bryan Station
Carnell Williams	6-1	195	Attalla, Ala./Etowah
Receivers			
Montrell Jones	6-3	185	Louisville, Ky./Male
Offensive linemen			
Mark LeVoir	6-7	295	Eden Prairie, Minn./Eden Prairie

Defensive linemen			
Titus Adams	6-4	275	Omaha, Neb./Creighton Prep
Shaun Cody	6-5	250	Hacienca Heights, Calif./Los Altos
Orien Harris	6-3	280	Newark, Del./Newark
Tommie Harris	6-3	275	Killeen, Texas/Killeen
Pat Massey	6-8	235	Cleveland, Ohio/St. Ignatius
Charles Rush	6-4	280	Erie, Pa./Cathedral Prep
Linebackers			
Reggie Arden	6-5	225	Ironton, Ohio/Ironton
Chauncey Davis	6-2	230	Auburndale, Fla./Auburndale
Lamarcus Rowell	6-4	220	Opelika, Ala./Opelika
Defensive backs			
Jerome Carter	6-1	205	Lake City, Fla./Columbia
Ernest Shazor	6-3	180	Detroit, Mich./Martin Luther King
Craphonso Thorpe	6-2	175	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
Matt Ware	6-3	195	Los Angeles/Loyola

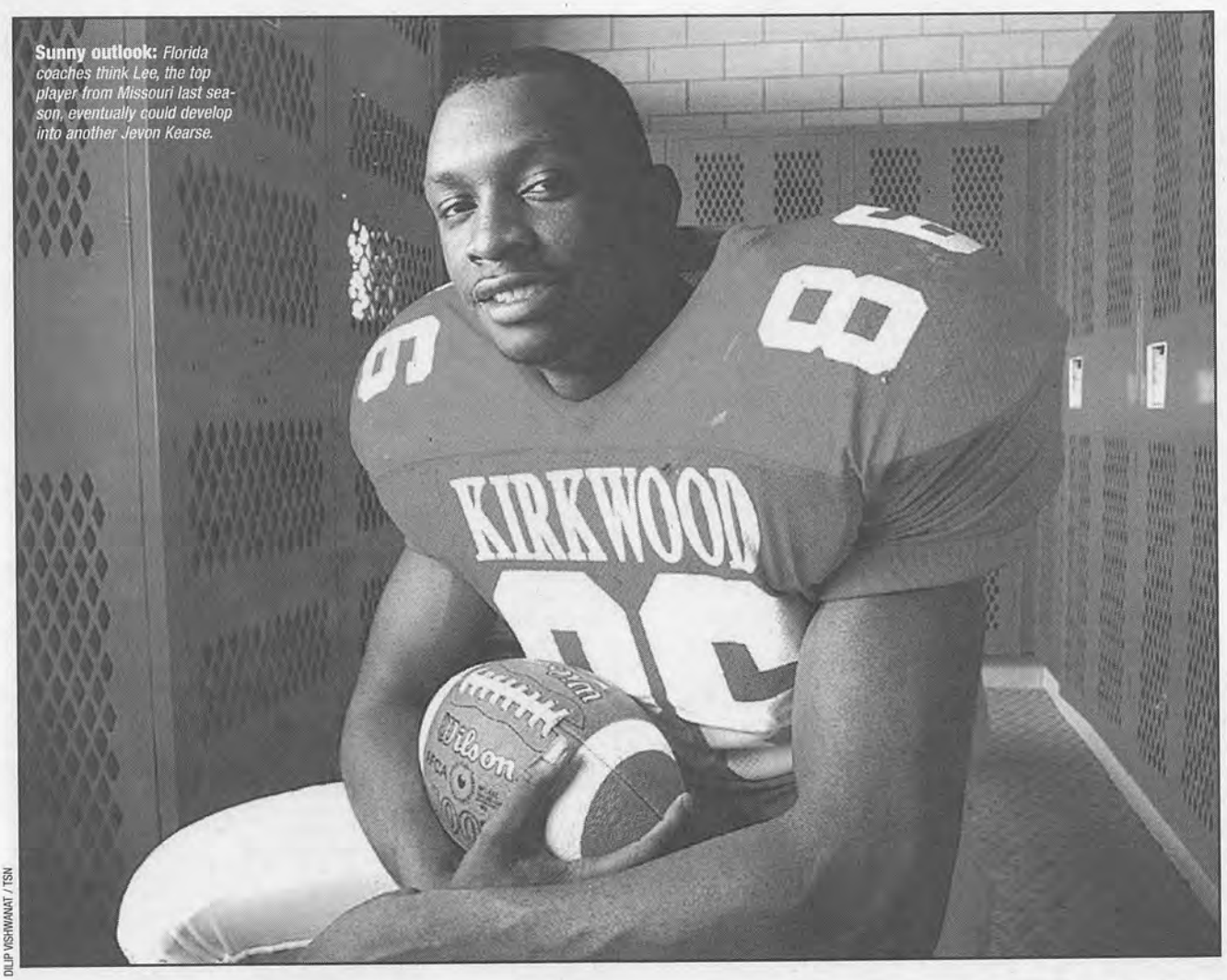
100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Other Prep Prospects Receiving Votes

Name	Pos.	Hometown	School
Tony Alford	LB	Miami, Fla.	Southridge
Derek Anderson	QB	Scappoose, Ore.	Scappoose
Shawn Andrews	OL	Camden, Ark.	Fairview
Kiel Angry	RB	Lee Co., Ga.	Leesburg
Steve Arflin	OL	Jacksonville, Fla.	Fletcher
Calvin Armstrong	DB	Decatur, Ga.	Columbia
Lamar Baker	WR	Avondale, Ariz.	Aqua Fria
Kelly Baraka	RB	Portage, Mich.	Northern
DeAndre Belin	RB	La Verne, Calif.	Bonita
Robert Bergman	OL	Bakersfield, Calif.	Bakersfield
Russell Borham	OL	Winston-Salem, N.C.	Carver
Curtis Bradley	OL	Summerville, S.C.	Summerville
DeWayne Brandon	DB	Temple, Texas	Temple
Brandon Brokaw	RB	Pennington, N.J.	Pennington
Sylvester Brown	RB	Madison, Miss.	Central
Reggie Brown	RB	Paterson, N.J.	Catholic
Dee Brown	LB	Brooksville, Fl.	Hernando Co.
James Buchanan	RB	Sarasota, Fla.	Cardinal Mooney
James Burckhardt	OL	Columbia, Md.	Long Reach
Rashad Butler	OL	Palm Beach, Fla.	Dwyer
Christian Campbell	WR	Austin, Texas	Westlake
Darren Charles	WR	Oshkosh, Wis.	North
Angelo Chattams	WR	Dayton, Ohio	Chaminade
Davin Clark	DL	Paterson, N.J.	Catholic
Chauncy Clark	LB	Lakeland, Fla.	Lakeland
Ricky Clausen	QB	Woodland Hills, Calif.	Taft
Michael Clayton	WR	Baton Rouge, La.	Christian Brothers
Kellen Clemens	QB	Burns, Ore.	Burns
R.J. Cobbs	ATH	Parsippany, N.J.	Parsippany Hills
Michael Jordan Craven	LB	Palm Desert, Calif.	La Quinta
Rayshon Crosby	LB	Gastonia, N.C.	Forest View
Quan Crosby	DB	Mart, Texas	Mart
Aries Curry	WR	Columbia, S.C.	Richland Southeast
Owen Daniels	QB	Naperville, Ill.	Central
Tennard Davis	DB	Miami, Fla.	Southridge
Jay Davis	QB	Clearwater, Fla.	Central Catholic
Clarence Davis	DL	Hampton, Va.	Kecoughtan
Charles Davis	DL	Orchard Lake, Mich.	St. Mary's
Mike Degory	OL	Palm Bay, Fla.	Palm Bay
Thomas Derricks	DL	Dallas	Jesuit
John DiGirolamo	QB	Parsippany, N.J.	Parsippany Hills
Joe Dipre	LB	Erie, Pa.	Cathedral Prep
Darrell Dowery	WR	Washington D.C.	Dunbar
Mazzie Drummond	ATH	Greer, S.C.	Greer
Derrick Duckworth	LB	Mize, Miss.	Mize
Joques Dumas	LB	Asheboro, N.C.	Asheboro
Kyle Ealey	TE	Westchester, Ill.	St. Joseph
Mike Espy	WR	Madison, Miss.	Central
Trai Essex	TE	Ft. Wayne, Ind.	Harding
Barrett Esworthy	LB	Baltimore, Md.	Gilman
Anthony Evans	RB	Pearland, Texas	Pearland
Von Ewing	OL	Troy, Ala.	Henderson
Pesefea Flaseu	RB	Honolulu	St. Louis
Terrance Freeney	RB	Cedar Falls, Iowa	Cedar Falls
Dethrell Garcia	LB	Harrisburg, Pa.	Bishop McDevitt
Fred Gibson	WR	Waycross, Ga.	Wareco
Ray Green	OL	Junction City, Kan.	Junction City
Clayton Harmon	DL	Stephenville, Texas	Stephenville
Rufus Harris	DB	La Porte, Texas	La Porte
James Head	DL	Miami, Fla.	Southridge
Andrew Henry-Kinnon	OL	Tallahassee, Fla.	Lincoln
Sterling Hicks	WR	Pompano Beach, Fla.	Ely
Donte Hickson	RB	McKinney, Texas	McKinney
Marquise Hill	DL	New Orleans	DeLaSalle
Lawrence Hooper	DL	Aldine, Texas	Aldine
Manese Hopoi	LB	Sacramento, Calif.	Valley
David Irons	RB	Dacula, Ga.	Dacula
Travis Jackson	QB	Olathe South, Kan.	Olathe South
Marlin Jackson	DB	Sharon, Pa.	Sharon
Marques Johnson	DL	Athens, Ga.	Clarke Central
Earvin Johnson	WR	Los Angeles	Cathedral
Derron Johnson	DB	Memphis, Tenn.	Melrose
Marcus Jones	RB	St. Augustine, Fla.	St. Augustine
Cory Jones	RB	Seattle	Kennedy

Name	Pos.	Hometown	School
Byron Jones	DB	Bay City, Texas	Bay City
Doug Justice	LB	Port Orange, Fla.	Spruce Creek
Larry Kendrick	WR	Haines City, Fla.	Haines City
Freddie King	WR	Winnfield, La.	Winnfield
Dave Kirtman	RB	Mercer Island, Wash.	Mercer Island
David Koral	QB	Pacific Palisades, Calif.	Pacific Palisades
Fred Lee	WR	Harrisburg, Pa.	Bishop McDevitt
J.R. Lemon	RB	Tyrone, Ga.	Sandy Creek
Raheem Lewis	OL	Suitland, Md.	Suitland
Daryl Lightfoot	DB	Phoenix	Maryvale
Keith Lipka	DE	Oak Creek, Wis.	Oak Creek
Grayling Love	OL	Sacramento, Calif.	Valley
Andre Maddox	DB	Miami, Fla.	Killian
Tim Massaquoi	WR	Allentown, Pa.	Parkland
Eddie McCoy	OL	Hattiesburg, Miss.	Hattiesburg
Jared McDougal	LB	Clinton, Miss.	Clinton
Clifton McKoy	RB	Lillington, N.C.	Western Hartnett
Jason Mitchell	LB	Abbeville, La.	Abbeville
A.J. Mitz	DL	Kent, Wash.	Kentwood
Chuckie Moore	DB	Elk Grove, Ill.	Elk Grove
Andy Moore	OL	Greenwood, Ind.	Center Grove
James Moses	TE	Galena Park, Texas	North Shore
Rudy Niswanger	OL	Monroe, La.	Ouchita
Kevin Noel	WR	Naperville, Ill.	Central
Adam Olds	OL	Dublin, Ohio	Coffman
Dan Orlovsky	QB	Shelton, Conn.	Shelton
Jonathan Orr	WR	Detroit	Ford
Uril Parrish	RB	Ridgefield Park, N.J.	Ridgefield
Jaworski Pollack	WR	Bradenton, Fla.	Southeast
Darryl Poston	RB	Huntington Beach, Calif.	Edison
Brett Rayl	DL	Lewisville, Texas	Lewisville
Willie Reid	RB	Warner Robins, Ga.	Warner Robins
Andrew Richardson	LB	Pittsburgh, Pa.	North Hills
Freddie Roach	LB	Killen Brooks, Ala.	Killen Brooks
Thez Robinson	RB	Lyons, Ga.	Toombs County
Abe Robinson	TE	Houston	Jersey Village
Gerard Ross	DB	Jacksonville, Fla.	Trinity Christian Academy
Cory Ross	DB	Denver	Jefferson
Lydell Ross	RB	Tampa, Fla.	Gaither
Chris Rudiger	LB	LaMirada, Calif.	LaMirada
Jeff Sanders	RB	Jackson, Miss.	Provine
John Sciarra	QB	La Canada, Calif.	St. Francis
Jonathan Scott	OL	Dallas	Carter
Drew Shader	OL	Boulder, Colo.	Boulder
Otis Shannon	RB	Indianapolis	Cathedral
Marvin Simmons	LB	Long Beach, Calif.	Poly
Andy Sisco	LB	Redmond, Wash.	Redmond
Cole Smith	OL	Ft. Worth, Texas	Christian
Marcus Spears	DL	Baton Rouge, La.	Southern Lab
Tyree Spinner	LB	Fairfax, Va.	Paul VI
Cornelius Stallings	OL	McComb, Miss.	South Pike
Adam Stenavich	OL	Marshfield, Wisc.	Marshfield
Matt Stevenson	QB	Memphis, Tenn.	Melrose
Mario Stevenson	WR	Memphis, Tn.	Melrose
Ray Tago	OL	Long Beach, Calif.	Poly
Jeff Thompson	DL	Mishawaka, Ind.	Penn
Derrick Tinsley	RB	Marietta, Ga.	Marietta
Justin Tomerlin	OL	San Clemente, Calif.	San Clemente
Forrest Tucker	DL	Lillington, N.C.	Western Harnett
Kevin Vickerson	DL	Detroit	Martin Luther King
David Walker	DL	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	Boyd Anderson
D.J. Walton	DB	Woodbridge, Va.	Hylton
Jason Wardlow	DL	Upland, Calif.	Upland
Jermaine Whitten	RB	Cerritos, Calif.	Cerritos
Terrell Williams	DB	San Diego, Calif.	Hoover
Monte Williams	RB	Commerce, Ga.	Commerce
Leon Williams	LB	Brooklyn, N.Y.	Canarsie
Keldrick Williams	RB	Montgomery, Ala.	Sidney Lanier
Jazzmen Williams	RB	Pittsford, N.Y.	Pittsford
David Williams	RB	Carrollton, Tex.	Newman Smith
John Wilson	OL	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Mainland
Pierre Woods	LB	Cleveland	Glenville
Dwayne Wright	RB	San Diego, Calif.	Lincoln
Darwin Yates	OL	Houston	Washington

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK



Sunny outlook: *Florida coaches think Lee, the top player from Missouri last season, eventually could develop into another Jevon Kearse.*

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Top Classes

1. Florida	15. Oklahoma	29. Mississippi St.
2. Penn State	16. Arizona State	30. Arkansas
3. Tennessee	17. UCLA	31. N. Carolina
4. Florida State	18. Virginia Tech	32. Kentucky
5. Texas	19. Wisconsin	33. Purdue
6. Alabama	20. Colorado	34. Kansas
7. Ohio State	21. Georgia	35. Washington
8. Auburn	22. Texas A&M	36. Syracuse
9. Notre Dame	23. Oregon	37. Mississippi
10. Michigan St.	24. Kansas St.	38. Arizona
11. Nebraska	25. Georgia Tech	39. Maryland
12. Michigan	26. LSU	40. TCU
13. USC	27. Clemson	
14. Miami (Fla.)	28. Illinois	

About the Gurus

- Bill Buchalter is a sports writer for the Orlando Sentinel. To subscribe to his recruiting newsletter, log on to orlandosentinel.com. Click on sports, then high schools, then recruiting.
- Tom Lemming publishes Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report. To subscribe, mail inquiries to P.O. Box 59113, Schaumburg, IL 60159
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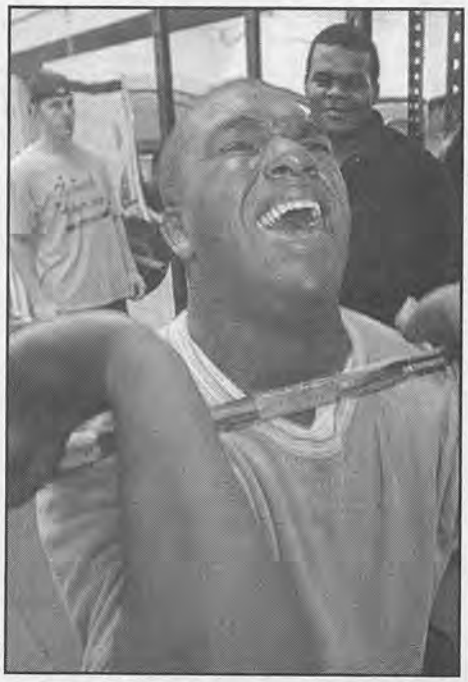
100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Where the Top Players Signed

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/high school	College
1.	D.J. Williams	LB	6-2	225	Concord, Calif./De La Salle	Miami (Fla.)
2.	Kwame Harris	OL	6-7	325	Newark, Del./Newark	Stanford
3.	Charles Rogers	WR	6-4	190	Saginaw, Mich./Saginaw	Michigan State
4.	Brock Berlin	QB	6-2	200	Shreveport, La./Evangel Christian	Florida
5.	B.J. Johnson	WR	6-1	180	Grand Prairie, Texas/South	Texas
6.	Marcus Houston	RB	6-2	205	Denver, Colo./Jefferson	Colorado
7.	Travis Johnson	DE	6-4	265	Sherman Oaks, Calif./Notre Dame	Florida State
8.	Albert Means	DL	6-6	305	Memphis, Tenn./Trezevant	Alabama
9.	Antonio Hall	OL	6-5	300	Canton, Ohio/McKinley	Kentucky
10.	Bryant McFadden	DB	6-1	180	Hollywood, Fla./MacArthur	Florida State
11.	Willis McGahee	RB	6-1	215	Miami, Fla./Central	Miami (Fla.)
12.	Darrell Lee	LB	6-5	230	Kirkwood, Mo./Kirkwood	Florida
13.	Michael Munoz	OL	6-7	290	Cincinnati, Ohio/Moeller	Tennessee
14.	Johnnie Morant	WR	6-5	215	Parsippany Hills, N.J./Parsippany	Syracuse
15.	Wes Sims	OL	6-6	295	Weatherford, Okla./Weatherford	Oklahoma
16.	Eric Moore	LB	6-4	225	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee	Florida State
17.	Yohance Buchanan	DB	6-1	210	Atlanta, Ga./Douglass	Florida State
18.	Casey Clausen	QB	6-4	210	Mission Hills, Calif./Alemany	Tennessee
19.	Raymond Mann	LB	6-2	225	Hampton, Va./Hampton	Virginia
20.	Albert Hollis	RB	6-0	190	Sacramento, Calif./Christian Bros.	Georgia
21.	Antwan Odom	DL	6-7	265	Bayou La Batre, Ala./Alma Bryant	Alabama
22.	Lawrence Richardson	DB	5-11	175	Galveston, Texas/Ball	Arkansas
23.	Amon Gordon	LB	6-3	270	San Diego, Calif./Mira Mesa	Stanford
24.	Mac Tyler	DL	6-5	305	Bessemer, Ala./Jess Lanier	Alabama
25.	Chad Mascoe	TE	6-3	215	Kissimmee, Fla./Osceola	Florida State
26.	Brock Edwards	TE	6-5	250	Fort Worth, Texas/Christian	Texas
27.	Sam Maldonado	RB	6-2	220	Harrison, N.Y./Harrison	Ohio State
28.	Alex Barron	OL	6-7	295	Orangeburg, S.C./Wilkinson	Florida State
29.	Jeff Smoker	QB	6-4	195	Manheim, Pa./Central	Michigan State
30.	O.J. Owens	DB	6-0	190	New London, N.C./North Stanley	Tennessee
31.	Jason Respert	OL	6-4	270	Warner Robins, Ga./Northside	TBA
32.	Jason Campbell	QB	6-5	185	Taylorsville, Miss./Taylorsville	Auburn
33.	Darius Jones	LB	6-4	250	Beloit, Wis./Memorial	Wisconsin
34.	Eric Knott	TE	6-4	235	Detroit, Mich./Henry Ford	Michigan State
35.	Tre Orr	DB	6-2	195	Lake City, Fla./Columbia	Florida
36.	Dustin Picciotti	RB	6-3	245	Doylestown, Pa./Central Bucks West	Pittsburgh
37.	Stevie Lee	DL	6-5	300	Shreveport, La./Evangel Christian	Texas
38.	Greg Pauly	DL	6-6	275	Waukesha, Wis./South	Notre Dame
39.	Shannon Snell	OL	6-6	305	Tampa, Fla./Hillsborough	Florida
40.	Roy Williams	WR	6-4	190	Odessa, Texas/Permian	Texas
41.	Harold James	ATH	6-0	210	Osceola, Ark./Osceola	Alabama
42.	Teyo Johnson	DL	6-7	245	San Diego, Calif./Mira Mesa	Stanford
43.	Alex Holmes	TE	6-3	295	Studio City, Calif./Harvard Westlake	USC
44.	Tyrell Dortch	RB	6-0	195	Hoboken, N.J./Hoboken	Michigan State
45.	Carlos Perez	WR	6-1	190	Hoboken, N.J./Hoboken	Florida
46.	Mike Williams	RB	6-0	195	Lakewood, Calif./Mayfair	Arizona State
47.	Hobie Holiday	LB	6-5	228	Warner Robins, Ga./Houston County	Georgia Tech
48.	Chris McKelvy	OL	6-4	305	Lansdale, Pa./North Penn	Penn State
49.	Tyson Thompson	RB	6-2	190	Irving, Texas/Irving	TCU
50.	Marco Cooper	LB	6-1	220	Detroit, Mich./Cass Technical	Ohio State



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Big-time blocker: *Harris, who's headed to Stanford, is considered to be the nation's top offensive line prospect.*

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

The next in line? *Owens may end up being the next great defensive back produced by Tennessee.*

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

DIVISION I-A SCHEDULE

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
AIR FORCE	Cal State Northridge	BYU		at Utah	at UNLV	Navy	at Wyoming	New Mexico	at Notre Dame	at Army	Colorado State	San Diego State	
AKRON	at Virginia Tech	at Central Michigan	Central Florida	at Ohio	Miami (Ohio)	at Bowling Green	Northern Illinois	Connecticut	Marshall		Buffalo	at Kent	
ALABAMA	at UCLA	Vanderbilt (at Birmingham, Ala.)	Southern Miss (at Birmingham, Ala.)	at Arkansas	South Carolina		Mississippi	at Tennessee	Central Florida	at LSU	at Mississippi St.	Auburn	
ARIZONA	at Utah	Ohio State	San Diego State		at Stanford	at USC	Washington State	at Oregon	UCLA	at Washington	Oregon State		Arizona St. (N 24)
ARIZONA STATE	at San Diego St. (A 31)		Colorado State	Utah State	at UCLA	California	Washington	at Washington St.	Oregon	USC	at Stanford		at Arizona (N 24)
ARKANSAS	Southwest Missouri St. (at Little Rock, Ark.)	Boise State (at Little Rock, Ark.)	Alabama	Georgia	La.-Monroe	at South Carolina		at Auburn	Mississippi	at Tennessee	at Mississippi St.		LSU (at Little Rock, Ark.)
ARKANSAS STATE	at NC State	at Oklahoma	Memphis	at TCU	Richmond	at Mississippi	at Idaho	New Mexico St.	at Utah State	Boise State	North Texas		
ARMY	at Cincinnati	Boston College	at Houston	Memphis		at New Mexico State	at East Carolina	Tulane		Air Force	at Louisville	UAB	Navy (Dec. 2) (at Baltimore)
AUBURN	Wyoming (Aug. 31)	at Mississippi	LSU	Northern Illinois	Vanderbilt	at Mississippi State	at Florida	Louisiana Tech	Arkansas		Georgia	at Alabama	
BALL STATE	at Florida	Western Illinois	at Kansas State		Northern Illinois	at Miami (Ohio)	Eastern Michigan	at Buffalo	at Central Mich.	Western Michigan	at Toledo	Connecticut	
BAYLOR	at North Texas (Aug. 31)		Minnesota	South Florida	Iowa State	at Texas Tech	Texas A&M	at Nebraska	at Texas	Oklahoma	Missouri	at Oklahoma St.	
BOISE STATE	at New Mexico	Northern Iowa	Arkansas (at Little Rock, Ark.)	at Central Michigan		at Washington State	Eastern Washington	North Texas	at New Mexico St.	at Arkansas State	Utah State	Idaho	
BOSTON COLLEGE	at West Virginia	at Army		Navy	Virginia Tech	Connecticut	Syracuse	at Pittsburgh	Rutgers	Temple	at Notre Dame		at Miami
BOWLING GREEN	at Michigan	Pittsburgh	at Temple	at Buffalo	at Kent	Akron	at Miami (Ohio)	Eastern Michigan		Marshall	Ohio	at Toledo (Nov. 22)	
BYU	Florida State (Aug. 26) (at Jacksonville, Fla.) at Virginia (Sept. 2)	at Air Force	Mississippi St. (S. 14)	UNLV	at Syracuse	Utah State (Oct. 6)		San Diego State	Wyoming (Oct. 26)	at Colo. St. (Nov. 2)		New Mexico	at Utah
BUFFALO	at Syracuse	at Rutgers	Connecticut	Bowling Green	at Marshall	at Ohio		Ball State	at Northern Ill.	Kent	at Akron	Miami (Ohio)	
CALIFORNIA		Utah	at Illinois	at Fresno State	Washington State	at Arizona State	UCLA	at Washington	at USC	Oregon State	at Oregon	Stanford	
CENTRAL FLORIDA	at Georgia Tech	Northwestern State	at Akron	William & Mary	at Eastern Mich.	at Northern Illinois	Eastern Kentucky	La.-Monroe	at Alabama	at Louisiana Tech	Virginia Tech		
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	at Purdue	Akron	at Wyoming	Boise State	at Toledo	Kent		at Ohio	Ball State	at Eastern Mich.	Western Mich.	at Northern Ill.	
CINCINNATI	Army	Syracuse	at Wisconsin	at Indiana	at Tulane	Houston	at Louisville		Miami (Ohio)	UAB	at Memphis	Southern Miss	
CLEMSON	The Citadel	Missouri	Wake Forest	at Virginia	at Duke	NC State	Maryland	at North Carolina	Georgia Tech	at Florida State		South Carolina	
COLORADO	Colorado State (at Denver)	at USC	Washington		Kansas State	at Texas A&M	Texas	at Kansas	Oklahoma State	at Missouri	Iowa State		at Nebraska (N 24)
COLORADO STATE	Colorado (at Denver)	East Tenn. State	at Arizona State		at Nevada	New Mexico	UNLV	at Utah	at San Diego St.	BYU (Nov. 2)	at Air Force	Wyoming (Nov. 16)	
CONNECTICUT	at Eastern Michigan	Colgate	at Buffalo	Northeastern	at Louisville	at Boston College		at Akron	South Florida	Middle Tennessee	Rhode Island	at Ball State	
DUKE	East Carolina	at Northwestern	Virginia	at Vanderbilt	Clemson		at Florida State	at Georgia Tech	Maryland	at Wake Forest	at NC State	North Carolina	
EAST CAROLINA	at Duke	Va. Tech (Sept. 7)	Tulane	Syracuse		at Memphis	Army	at Louisville (O. 19)	UAB		Houston	at West Virginia	at Southern Miss
EASTERN MICHIGAN	Connecticut	Miami (Ohio)	at South Carolina	at Temple	Central Florida	Toledo	at Ball State	at Bowling Green		Central Michigan	Northern Illinois	at Western Mich.	
FLORIDA	Ball State	Middle Tenn. State	at Tennessee	Kentucky	at Mississippi St.	LSU	Auburn		Georgia (at Jacksonville, Fla.)	at Vanderbilt	South Carolina	at Florida State	
FLORIDA STATE	BYU (Aug. 26) (at Jacksonville, Fla.)	at Georgia Tech	North Carolina	Louisville	at Maryland (S. 28)	at Miami (Fla.)	Duke	Virginia	at NC State	Clemson	at Wake Forest	Florida	
FRESNO STATE	at Ohio State	at UCLA		California		at Rice	Nevada	at UTEP	Tulsa	Hawaii	at TCU	SMU	at San Jose State
GEORGIA	Georgia Southern	at South Carolina		New Mexico State	at Arkansas	Tennessee	Vanderbilt	at Kentucky	Florida (at Jacksonville, Fla.)		at Auburn	Mississippi	Georgia Tech
GEORGIA TECH	at Virginia Tech (Aug. 27) Central Fla. (Sept. 2)	Florida State	Navy	at NC State (Sept. 21)	at North Carolina		Wake Forest	Duke	at Clemson		Virginia (Nov. 9)	at Maryland	at Georgia
HAWAII		Portland State		at UTEP	Tulsa	at TCU	SMU	at Rice	San Jose State	at Fresno State	Nevada	Louisiana Tech	Wisconsin
HOUSTON	at Rice	at LSU	Army	at Texas	SMU	at Cincinnati		at Memphis	Southern Miss	at Tulane	at East Carolina	Louisville	
IDAHO	at Washington	Montana	at Oregon	at Washington State	Montana State	at West Virginia	Arkansas State	at Utah State		at North Texas	New Mexico St.	at Boise State	

DIVISION I-A SCHEDULE

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
ILLINOIS	Middle Tenn. State	at San Diego State	California	Michigan	at Minnesota		Iowa	at Penn State	at Michigan State	Indiana	Ohio State	at Northwestern	
INDIANA		NC State	at Kentucky	Cincinnati	Iowa	at Northwestern	at Michigan	Minnesota	Penn State	at Illinois	Wisconsin	at Purdue	
IOWA	Kansas State (Aug. 26) (at Kansas City, Mo.)	Western Michigan	Iowa State	at Nebraska	at Indiana	Michigan State	at Illinois	Ohio State	Wisconsin	at Penn State	Northwestern	at Minnesota	
IOWA STATE	Ohio (Aug. 31)	UNLV	at Iowa		at Baylor	Nebraska	at Oklahoma State	Texas A&M	Missouri	at Kansas State	at Colorado	Kansas	
KANSAS	at SMU		UAB	Southern Illinois	at Oklahoma	Kansas State	at Missouri	Colorado	Texas Tech	at Nebraska	Texas	at Iowa State	
KANSAS STATE	Iowa (Aug. 26) (at Kansas City, Mo.) La. Tech (Sept. 2)		Ball State	North Texas	at Colorado	at Kansas	Oklahoma	Texas Tech	at Texas A&M	Iowa State	Nebraska	at Missouri	
KENT	at Pittsburgh	at Purdue	Youngstown State	at Miami (Ohio)	Bowling Green	at Central Michigan	Ohio	at Marshall	Western Michigan	at Buffalo		Akron	
KENTUCKY	at Louisville	South Florida	Indiana	at Florida	at Mississippi	South Carolina	at LSU	Georgia		Mississippi State	Vanderbilt	at Tennessee	
LA.-LAFAYETTE	Sam Houston State	at Texas	at Texas Tech	Northwestern State	at UAB	Tulane	at Louisiana Tech		North Texas	Louisiana-Monroe		Middle Tenn. St.	
LA.-MONROE	at Minnesota	at Memphis	Nicholls State	at Tennessee	SW Texas St.	at Arkansas	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Central Florida		La.-Lafayette	Louisiana Tech	Wofford	
LSU	Western Carolina	Houston	at Auburn	UAB	Tennessee	at Florida	Kentucky	Mississippi State		Alabama	at Mississippi		Arkansas (at Little Rock, Ark.)
LOUISIANA TECH	Miss. Valley St. (Aug. 26) at Kansas St. (Sep. 2)	at Penn State	Stephen F. Austin	at Tulsa		at Middle Tenn. State	La.-Lafayette	at Auburn	at Miami (Fla.)	Central Florida	at La.-Monroe	at Hawaii	
LOUISVILLE	Kentucky	Grambling		at Florida State	Connecticut	at UAB	Cincinnati	E. Carolina (O. 19)	Tulane	at Southern Miss	Army	at Houston	
MARSHALL	SE Missouri State (A 31)	at Michigan State		at North Carolina	Buffalo	Western Michigan	at Toledo	Kent	at Akron	at Bowling Green	Miami (Ohio)	at Ohio	
MARYLAND		Temple	at West Virginia	Middle Tenn. State	Florida St. (Sep. 28)	at Virginia	at Clemson	Wake Forest	at Duke	NC State	at North Carolina	Georgia Tech	
MEMPHIS	Mississippi State	Louisiana-Monroe	at Arkansas State	at Army	at Southern Miss	East Carolina	at UAB	Houston		Tennessee	Cincinnati	at Tulane	
MIAMI (FLA.)	McNeese State (A 31)	at Washington		at West Virginia	at Rutgers	Florida State		at Temple	Louisiana Tech	Virginia Tech	Pittsburgh	at Syracuse	Boston College
MIAMI (OHIO)	at Vanderbilt	at Eastern Michigan	at Ohio State	Kent	at Akron	Ball State	Bowling Green		at Cincinnati	Ohio	at Marshall	at Buffalo	
MICHIGAN	Bowling Green	Rice	at UCLA	at Illinois	Wisconsin	at Purdue	Indiana	Michigan State		at Northwestern	Penn State	at Ohio State	
MICHIGAN STATE		Marshall	at Missouri	Notre Dame	Northwestern	at Iowa	Wisconsin	at Michigan	Illinois	at Ohio State	Purdue	at Penn State	
MIDDLE TENN. STATE	at Illinois	at Florida	Murray State	at Maryland		Louisiana Tech	La.-Monroe	at UAB	at Mississippi St.	at Connecticut	South Florida	La.-Lafayette	
MINNESOTA	Louisiana-Monroe	Ohio	at Baylor	at Purdue	Illinois	Penn State	at Ohio State	at Indiana	Northwestern	at Wisconsin		Iowa	
MISSISSIPPI	Tulane	Auburn	at Vanderbilt		Kentucky	Arkansas State	at Alabama		UNLV	at Arkansas	LSU	at Georgia	Miss. St. (Nov. 23)
MISSISSIPPI STATE	at Memphis		at BYU	at South Carolina	Florida	Auburn		at LSU	Middle Tenn. St.	at Kentucky	Alabama	Arkansas	at Miss. (Nov. 23)
MISSOURI	Western Illinois	at Clemson	Michigan State		at Nebraska	Oklahoma State	Kansas	at Texas	at Iowa State	Colorado	at Baylor	Kansas State	
NAVY	Temple		at Georgia Tech	at Boston College	TCU	at Air Force	Notre Dame (at Orlando, Fla.)	Rutgers	Toledo		at Tulane	Wake Forest	Army (Dec. 2) (at Baltimore, Md.)
NEBRASKA	San Jose State	at Notre Dame		Iowa	Missouri	at Iowa State	at Texas Tech	Baylor	at Oklahoma	Kansas	at Kansas State		Colorado (Nov. 24)
NEVADA	at Oregon	TCU		at Wyoming	Colorado State	at UNLV	at Fresno State	San Jose State	at SMU	UTEP	at Hawaii	Rice	at Tulsa
NEW MEXICO	Boise State	Oregon State	at New Mexico State	Northern Arizona	Wyoming	at Colorado State		at Air Force	Utah	San Diego State	at UNLV	at BYU	
NEW MEXICO STATE	at South Carolina		New Mexico	at Georgia	at UTEP	Army	Tulsa	at Arkansas State	Boise State	Utah State	at Idaho	at North Texas	
NORTH CAROLINA	Tulsa	at Wake Forest	at Florida State	Marshall	Georgia Tech		NC State	Clemson	at Virginia	at Pittsburgh	Maryland	at Duke	
NC STATE	Arkansas State	at Indiana	SMU	Georgia Tech (Sept. 21)		at Clemson	at North Carolina		Florida State	at Maryland	Duke	at Virginia	Wake Forest
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	at N'rthw'st'rn (A 31)	Illinois State		at Auburn	at Ball State	Central Florida	at Akron	at Western Mich.	Buffalo	Toledo	at Eastern Mich.	Central Michigan	
NORTH TEXAS	Baylor (Aug. 31)	at Texas Tech	at UNLV	at Kansas State		Samford (Oct. 5)	Utah State	at Boise State	at La.-Lafayette	Idaho	at Arkansas St.	New Mexico St.	
NORTHWESTERN	Northern Ill. (Aug. 31)	Duke	at TCU	at Wisconsin	at Michigan State	Indiana	Purdue		at Minnesota	Michigan	at Iowa	Illinois	
NOTRE DAME	Texas A&M	Nebraska	Purdue	at Michigan State		Stanford	Navy at Orlando, Fla.	at West Virginia	Air Force		Boston College	at Rutgers	at USC
OHIO	at Iowa St. (Aug. 31)	at Minnesota	Tennessee Tech	Akron	at W. Michigan	Buffalo	at Kent	Central Michigan		at Miami (Ohio)	at Bowling Green	Marshall	
OHIO STATE	Fresno State	at Arizona	Miami (Ohio)	Penn State		at Wisconsin	Minnesota	at Iowa	at Purdue	Michigan State	at Illinois	Michigan	

DIVISION I-A SCHEDULE

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
OKLAHOMA	UTEP	Arkansas State		Rice	Kansas	Texas (at Dallas)	at Kansas State		Nebraska	at Baylor	at Texas A&M	Texas Tech	at Oklahoma St.
OKLAHOMA STATE		at Tulsa	SW Texas State	Southern Miss	at Texas	at Missouri	Iowa State		at Colorado	at Texas A&M	at Texas Tech	Baylor	Oklahoma
OREGON	Nevada	at Wisconsin	Idaho	UCLA	Washington		at USC	Arizona	at Arizona State	at Washington St.	California	at Oregon State	
OREGON STATE	Eastern Washington	at New Mexico		San Diego State	USC	at Washington	Stanford	at UCLA	Washington State	at California	at Arizona	Oregon	
PENN STATE	USC (Aug. 27) (at East Rutherford, N.J.) Toledo (Sept. 2)	Louisiana Tech	at Pittsburgh	at Ohio State	Purdue	at Minnesota		Illinois	at Indiana	Iowa	at Michigan	Michigan State	
PITTSBURGH	Kent	at Bowling Green	Penn State	Rutgers		at Syracuse		Boston College	at Virginia Tech	North Carolina	at Miami (Fla.)	at Temple	West Va. (Nov. 24)
PURDUE	Central Michigan	Kent	at Notre Dame	Minnesota	at Penn State	Michigan	at Northwestern	at Wisconsin	Ohio State		at Michigan St.	Indiana	
RICE	Houston	at Michigan	Tulsa	at Oklahoma	at San Jose State	Fresno State		Hawaii	at TCU	SMU	at UTEP	at Nevada	
RUTGERS	Villanova	Buffalo	at Virginia Tech	at Pittsburgh	Miami (Fla.)		Temple	at Navy	at Boston College		West Virginia	Notre Dame	at Syracuse
SAN DIEGO STATE	Arizona State (Aug. 31)	Illinois	at Arizona	at Oregon State		at Wyoming	Utah	at BYU	Colorado State	at New Mexico		at Air Force	UNLV
SAN JOSE STATE	at Nebraska	at Stanford	Southern Utah	at USC	Rice	at SMU	UTEP	at Nevada	at Hawaii	TCU		at Tulsa	Fresno State
SMU	Kansas	at UTEP	at NC State	Tulane	at Houston	San Jose State	at Hawaii		Nevada	at Rice	Tulsa	at Fresno State	TCU
SOUTH CAROLINA	New Mexico State	Georgia	Eastern Michigan	Mississippi State	at Alabama	at Kentucky	Arkansas	at Vanderbilt	Tennessee		at Florida	at Clemson	
SOUTHERN MISS	at Tennessee		Alabama (at Birmingham, Ala.)	at Oklahoma State	Memphis	South Florida	at Tulane	at Houston		Louisville	at UAB	at Cincinnati	East Carolina
STANFORD	at Washington State	San Jose State	Texas		Arizona	at Notre Dame	at Oregon State	USC	Washington	at UCLA	Arizona State	at California	
SYRACUSE	Buffalo	at Cincinnati		at East Carolina	BYU	Pittsburgh	at Boston College	Virginia Tech		at West Virginia	at Temple	Miami (Fla.)	Rutgers
TEMPLE	at Navy	at Maryland	Bowling Green	Eastern Michigan	West Va. (Sept. 28)	at Virginia Tech	at Rutgers	Miami		at Boston College	Syracuse	Pittsburgh	
TENNESSEE	Southern Miss		Florida	La.-Monroe	at LSU	at Georgia		Alabama	at South Carolina	at Memphis	Arkansas	Kentucky	at Vanderbilt
TEXAS		La.-Lafayette	at Stanford	Houston	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma (at Dallas)	at Colorado	Missouri	Baylor	at Texas Tech	at Kansas		Texas A&M (N 24)
TEXAS A&M	at Notre Dame	Wyoming	UTEP		Texas Tech	Colorado	at Baylor	at Iowa State	Kansas State	at Oklahoma State	Oklahoma		at Texas (Nov. 24)
TCU		at Nevada	Northwestern	Arkansas State	at Navy	Hawaii		at Tulsa	Rice	at San Jose State	Fresno State	UTEP	at SMU
TEXAS TECH	Utah State	North Texas	La.-Lafayette		at Texas A&M	Baylor	Nebraska	at Kansas State	at Kansas	Texas	Oklahoma State	at Oklahoma	
TOLEDO	at Penn State	Weber State	Eastern Illinois	at Western Michigan	Central Michigan	at Eastern Michigan	Marshall		at Navy	at Northern Illinois	Ball State	B'wl'ng Gr'n (Nov. 22)	
TULANE	at Mississippi		at East Carolina	at SMU	Cincinnati	at Louisiana-Lafayette	Southern Miss	at Army	at Louisville	Houston	Navy	Memphis	
TULSA	at North Carolina	Oklahoma State	at Rice	Louisiana Tech	at Hawaii	UTEP	at New Mexico St.	TCU	at Fresno State		at SMU	San Jose State	Nevada
UAB		Chattanooga (Sep. 7)	at Kansas	at LSU	La.-Lafayette	Louisville	Memphis	Middle Tenn. St.	at East Carolina	at Cincinnati	Southern Miss	at Army	
UCLA	Alabama	Fresno State	Michigan	at Oregon	Arizona State		at California	Oregon State	at Arizona	Stanford	at Washington	USC	
UNLV		at Iowa State	North Texas	at BYU	Air Force	Nevada	at Colorado State	Wyoming	at Mississippi	at Utah	New Mexico		at San Diego St. at Hawaii (Dec. 2)
USC	Penn State (Aug. 27) (at East Rutherford, N.J.)	Colorado		San Jose State	at Oregon State	Arizona	Oregon	at Stanford	California	at Arizona State	Washington St.	at UCLA	Notre Dame
UTAH	Arizona	at California	Washington State	Air Force	at Utah State		at San Diego State	Colorado State	at New Mexico	UNLV	at Wyoming		BYU
UTEP	at Oklahoma	SMU	at Texas A&M	Hawaii	New Mexico State	at Tulsa	at San Jose State	Fresno State		at Nevada	Rice	at TCU	
UTAH STATE	at Texas Tech	Southern Utah		at Arizona State	Utah	at BYU (Oct. 6)	at North Texas	Idaho	Arkansas State	at New Mexico St.	at Boise State	Idaho State	
VANDERBILT	Miami (Ohio)	Alabama (at Birmingham, Ala.)	Mississippi	Duke	at Auburn	at Wake Forest	at Georgia	South Carolina		Florida	at Kentucky		Tennessee
VIRGINIA	BYU	Richmond	at Duke	Clemson	at Wake Forest	Maryland		at Florida State	North Carolina	at Ga. Tech (Nov. 9)	NC State	at Virginia Tech	
VIRGINIA TECH	Ga. Tech (Aug. 27) Akron	at E. Carolina (Sep. 7)	Rutgers		at Boston College	Temple	West Virginia (O 12)	at Syracuse	Pittsburgh	at Miami (Fla.)	at Central Fla.		Virginia
WAKE FOREST	App. St. (Aug. 31)	North Carolina	at Clemson		Virginia	Vanderbilt	at Georgia Tech	at Maryland		Duke	Florida State	at Navy	at NC State
WASHINGTON	Idaho	Miami (Fla.)	at Colorado		at Oregon	Oregon State	at Arizona State	California		Arizona	UCLA	at Washington St.	
WASHINGTON STATE	Stanford		at Utah	Idaho	at California	Boise State	at Arizona	Arizona State	at Oregon State	Oregon	at USC	Washington	
WESTERN MICHIGAN	at Wisconsin	at Iowa	Indiana State	Toledo	Ohio	at Marshall		Northern Illinois	at Kent	at Ball State	at Central Mich.	Eastern Michigan	
WEST VIRGINIA	Boston College		Maryland	Miami	at Temple (Sept.28)	Idaho	at Va. Tech (Oct. 12)	Notre Dame		Syracuse	at Rutgers	East Carolina	at Pitt (Nov. 24)
WISCONSIN	Western Michigan	Oregon	Cincinnati	Northwestern	at Michigan	Ohio State	at Michigan State	Purdue	at Iowa	Minnesota	at Indiana		at Hawaii
WYOMING	at Auburn (Aug. 31)	at Texas A&M	Central Michigan	Nevada	at New Mexico	San Diego State	Air Force	at UNLV	at BYU (Oct. 26)		Utah	at Colorado St. (Nov. 16)	

The Sporting News

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SURVEY

"Yo, it's Fly. The boss wants to know what you think about college football and this yearbook. Fly's talkin' about the inside scoop on the pigskin preppies from "The Bible of Sports." Tell *The Sporting News* what you think and you get a shot at some great stuff."

All you have to do is answer the following questions and return this survey to the address on the next page by October 1, 2000, and you'll be entered in a drawing for one of five free, one-year subscriptions to *The Sporting News* OR one of 25 copies of *The Sporting News'* ultimate trivia book, *"So, You Think You Know Sports."*

"Get goin'. I'll see you in the sports pages."

1. Going into the 2000 season, which Division I-A conference do you feel is the strongest?
○ ACC ○ Big East ○ Big Ten
○ Big 12 ○ C-USA ○ Mtn. West
○ Pac-10 ○ SEC ○ WAC

2. Which conference do you follow most closely?
○ ACC ○ Big East ○ Big Ten
○ Big 12 ○ Big West ○ C-USA
○ MAC ○ Mtn. West ○ Pac-10
○ SEC ○ WAC

3. The second year of the Bowl Championship Series produced a "national championship" matchup of Virginia Tech vs. Florida State. Did the BCS system match the two best teams in the country in the Sugar Bowl last season?
○ Yes ○ No

4. Do you favor a playoff to determine college football's Division I-A national champion?
○ Yes ○ No

4a. If yes, how many teams should be involved?
○ 2 ○ 4 ○ 8 ○ 16

5. How do you feel about the current number of bowl games?
○ There are too many
○ There aren't enough
○ There are just the right number

6. Do you follow the NFL as much as college football?
○ Yes ○ No

7. When should college players be allowed to enter the NFL draft?
○ After four college seasons
○ After three college seasons
○ Whenever they like

8. Most strong programs schedule at least one non-conference game against a weak opponent. If you were the athletic director, how many "creampuff" games would you schedule?
○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4

9. Where do you get most of your college football information?
○ *The Sporting News*
○ Other magazines
○ Newspapers
○ Television
○ Radio ○ Internet
○ School-specific publications

10. Is this your first purchase of *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
○ Yes ○ No

10a. If not, how many times have you bought previously?
○ 1 ○ 2-3 ○ 4-5
○ 6-10 ○ over 10

11. Ideally, when would you like to purchase *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
○ June 15 ○ June 30
○ July 15 ○ July 31

12. What factors influenced you to buy *TSN's College Football* yearbook? *(Check all that apply.)*
○ Overall editorial content
○ Graphic presentation
○ Cover ○ Price
○ Name recognition

13. Which do you prefer?
○ Coverage of the entire nation
○ Coverage of my favorite league

14. Coverage of Division I-AA was cut back in this yearbook. Would you like to see that information restored if it meant eliminating about half of the editorial content on pages 1 through 43?
○ Yes ○ No

Please turn the page ☛

15. If we could devote more or less space to certain sections (without changing the overall number of pages), how would you like to see that space used?

More pages	Fewer pages	Perfect as is	
___	___	___	Feature articles
___	___	___	League previews
___	___	___	Scouting the nation and conferences
___	___	___	Predictions (conference races, All-American teams, etc.)
___	___	___	Division I-AA

16. Would you like to see more coverage of Divisions II and III?
○ Yes ○ No

17. Would you like to see more coverage of high school recruiting?
○ Yes ○ No

18. Anything else we should change to improve *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
_____
_____

19. Overall, how would you rate this yearbook?
○ Excellent ○ Very good
○ Good ○ Average
○ Below average

20. Do you refer to *TSN's College Football* yearbook throughout the season?
○ Yes ○ No

20a. If yes, how often?
○ Weekly ○ Monthly
○ Constantly

21. How many other people read your copy of *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2
○ 3 ○ 4-5 ○ 6-10
○ 11-15 ○ More than 15

22. Which other yearbooks from *The Sporting News* do you read? *(Check all that apply.)*
○ Pro Football
○ Pro Football Draft Guide
○ Fantasy Football
○ Baseball
○ Fantasy Baseball
○ Pro Basketball
○ College Basketball
○ Hockey
○ Racing

23. If it were possible to order all or some of *The Sporting News* yearbooks as a package and have them delivered to you by mail, would you be interested?
○ Yes ○ No

24. Do you buy yearbooks from other companies?
○ Yes ○ No

24a. If yes, which ones?
○ Athlon
○ Lindy's
○ Street & Smith's
○ Preview Sports
○ Other
_____
_____

25. Do you read *The Sporting News* weekly magazine?
○ Yes ○ No

26. Have you ever seen or used *The Sporting News* website (sportingnews.com)?
○ Yes ○ No

27. How many college football games do you attend in a season?
○ 0 ○ 1-3 ○ 4-6
○ 7-10 ○ More than 10

28. Is your favorite team in any of the four professional sports outside your local market?
○ Yes ○ No

29. Have you ever traveled to attend a sporting event outside your local market?
○ Yes ○ No

30. Do you wear merchandise featuring your teams' logos?
○ Yes ○ No

31. Have you ever watched a sporting event on pay-per-view?
○ Yes ○ No

32. Which credit card do you prefer using?
○ Visa
○ MasterCard
○ American Express
○ Discover
○ Other _____

33. Please check the category that includes your age.
○ Under 18 ○ 18-24
○ 25-29 ○ 30-34
○ 35-44 ○ 45-54
○ 55-64 ○ Over 64

34. Are you...
○ Male? ○ Female?

35. Are you...
○ Married? ○ Single?

36. Did you attend or graduate from college?
○ Yes ○ No

37. Which of the following categories contains your approximate total household income, before taxes, for 1999? *(Please include total earnings for all members of your household from all sources.)*
○ Under $20,000
○ $20,000-$29,999
○ $30,000-$39,999
○ $40,000-$49,999
○ $50,000-$74,999
○ $75,000-$99,999
○ $100,000-$199,999
○ Over $200,000

This portion is for our records and for your registration for the drawing.
It will be kept CONFIDENTIAL and separate from your sports poll answers.
Please fill in the following information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____

Please return the survey to:
The Sporting News
College Football Survey
P.O. Box 1040
Millburn, NJ 07041

Award winners

Heisman Trophy

(Top player/Downtown Athletic Club of New York)

Year	Player, school, pos.
1935	Jay Berwanger, Chicago, RB
1936	Larry Kelley, Yale, E
1937	Clint Frank, Yale, RB
1938	Davey O'Brien, TCU, QB
1939	Nile Kinnick, Iowa, RB
1940	Tom Harmon, Michigan, RB
1941	Bruce Smith, Minnesota, RB
1942	Frank Sinkwich, Georgia, RB
1943	Angelo Bertelli, Notre Dame, QB
1944	Les Horvath, Ohio State, QB
1945	Doc Blanchard, Army, FB
1946	Glenn Davis, Army, RB
1947	John Lujack, Notre Dame, QB
1948	Doak Walker, SMU, RB
1949	Leon Hart, Notre Dame, E
1950	Vic Janowicz, Ohio State, RB
1951	Dick Kazmaier, Princeton, RB
1952	Billy Vessels, Oklahoma, RB
1953	John Lattner, Notre Dame, RB
1954	Alan Ameche, Wisconsin, FB
1955	Howard Cassady, Ohio State, RB
1956	Paul Hornung, Notre Dame, QB
1957	John David Crow, Texas A&M, RB
1958	Pete Dawkins, Army, RB
1959	Billy Cannon, LSU, RB
1960	Joe Bellino, Navy, RB
1961	Ernie Davis, Syracuse, RB
1962	Terry Baker, Oregon State, QB
1963	Roger Staubach, Navy, QB
1964	John Huarte, Notre Dame, QB
1965	Mike Garrett, USC, RB
1966	Steve Spurrier, Florida, QB
1967	Gary Beban, UCLA, QB
1968	O.J. Simpson, USC, RB
1969	Steve Owens, Oklahoma, RB
1970	Jim Plunkett, Stanford, QB
1971	Pat Sullivan, Auburn, QB
1972	Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska, FL
1973	John Cappelletti, Penn State, RB
1974	Archie Griffin, Ohio State, RB
1975	Archie Griffin, Ohio State, RB
1976	Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh, RB
1977	Earl Campbell, Texas, RB
1978	Billy Sims, Oklahoma, RB
1979	Charles White, USC, RB
1980	George Rogers, South Carolina, RB
1981	Marcus Allen, USC, RB
1982	Herschel Walker, Georgia, RB
1983	Mike Rozier, Nebraska, RB
1984	Doug Flutie, Boston College, QB
1985	Bo Jackson, Auburn, RB
1986	Vinny Testaverde, Miami (Fla.), QB
1987	Tim Brown, Notre Dame, FL
1988	Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State, RB
1989	Andre Ware, Houston, QB
1990	Ty Detmer, BYU, QB
1991	Desmond Howard, Michigan, FL
1992	Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.), QB
1993	Charlie Ward, Florida State, QB
1994	Rashaan Salaam, Colorado, RB
1995	Eddie George, Ohio State, RB
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida, QB
1997	Charles Woodson, Michigan, CB
1998	Ricky Williams, Texas, RB
1999	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, RB

Maxwell Award

(Top player/Maxwell Football Club of Philadelphia)

Year	Player, school, pos.
1937	Clint Frank, Yale, RB
1938	Davey O'Brien, TCU, QB
1939	Nile Kinnick, Iowa, RB
1940	Tom Harmon, Michigan, RB
1941	Bill Dudley, Virginia, RB
1942	Paul Governali, Columbia, QB
1943	Bob Odell, Pennsylvania, RB
1944	Glenn Davis, Army, RB
1945	Doc Blanchard, Army, FB
1946	Charley Trippi, Georgia, RB
1947	Doak Walker, SMU, RB
1948	Chuck Bednarik, Pennsylvania, C
1949	Leon Hart, Notre Dame, E
1950	Reds Bagnell, Pennsyvlania, RB
1951	Dick Kazmaier, Princeton, RB
1952	John Lattner, Notre Dame, RB
1953	John Lattner, Notre Dame, RB
1954	Ron Beagle, Navy, E
1955	Howard Cassady, Ohio State, RB
1956	Tommy McDonald, Oklahoma, RB
1957	Bob Reifsnyder, Navy, T
1958	Pete Dawkins, Army, RB
1959	Richie Lucas, Penn State, QB
1960	Joe Bellino, Navy, RB
1961	Bob Ferguson, Ohio State, FB
1962	Terry Baker, Oregon State, QB
1963	Roger Staubach, Navy, QB
1964	Glenn Ressler, Penn State, C
1965	Tommy Nobis, Texas, LB
1966	Jim Lynch, Notre Dame, LB
1967	Gary Beban, UCLA, QB
1968	O.J. Simpson, USC, HB
1969	Mike Reid, Penn State, DT
1970	Jim Plunkett, Stanford, QB
1971	Ed Marinaro, Cornell, RB
1972	Brad Van Pelt, Michigan State, DB
1973	John Cappelletti, Penn State, HB
1974	Steve Joachim, Temple, QB
1975	Archie Griffin, Ohio State, HB
1976	Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh, HB
1977	Ross Browner, Notre Dame, DE
1978	Chuck Fusina, Penn State, QB
1979	Charles White, USC, HB
1980	Hugh Green, Pitt, DE
1981	Marcus Allen, USC, HB
1982	Herschel Walker, Georgia, HB
1983	Mike Rozier, Nebraska, HB
1984	Doug Flutie, Boston College, QB
1985	Chuck Long, Iowa, QB
1986	Vinny Testaverde, Miami (Fla.), QB
1987	Don McPherson, Syracuse, QB
1988	Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State, HB
1989	Anthony Thomas, Indiana, RB
1990	Ty Detmer, BYU, QB
1991	Desmond Howard, Michigan, FL
1992	Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.), QB
1993	Charlie Ward, Florida State, QB
1994	Kerry Collins, Penn State, QB
1995	Eddie George, Ohio State, HB
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida, QB
1997	Peyton Manning, Tennessee, QB
1998	Ricky Williams, Texas, RB
1999	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, RB

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

NATION'S BEST: *Dayne became the second Wisconsin player to win the Heisman.*

Outland Trophy

(Top interior lineman/Football Writers Association of America)

Year	Player, school, pos.
1946	George Connor, Notre Dame, T
1947	Joe Steffy, Army, G
1948	Bill Fischer, Notre Dame, G
1949	Ed Bagdon, Michigan State, G
1950	Bob Gain, Kentucky, T
1951	Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma, T
1952	Dick Modzelewski, Maryland, T
1953	J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma, G
1954	Bill Brooks, Arkansas, G
1955	Calvin Jones, Iowa, G
1956	Jim Parker, Ohio State, G
1957	Alex Karras, Iowa, T
1958	Zeke Smith, Auburn, G
1959	Mike McGee, Duke, T
1960	Tom Brown, Minnesota, G
1961	Merlin Olsen, Utah State, T
1962	Bobby Bell, Minnesota, T
1963	Scott Appleton, Texas, T
1964	Steve DeLong, Tennessee, T
1965	Tommy Nobis, Texas, G
1966	Loyd Phillips, Arkansas, T
1967	Ron Yary, USC, T
1968	Bill Stanfill, Georgia, T
1969	Mike Reid, Penn State, DT
1970	Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State, MG
1971	Larry Jacobson, Nerbaska, DT

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1972 Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG
1973 John Hicks, Ohio State, OT
1974 Randy White, Maryland, DE
1975 Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT
1976 Ross Browner, Notre Dame, DE
1977 Brad Shearer, Texas, DT
1978 Greg Roberts, Oklahoma, G
1979 Jim Ritcher, North Carolina State, C
1980 Mark May, Pittsburgh, OT
1981 Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C
1982 Dave Rimington, Nebraksa, C
1983 Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska, G
1984 Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech, DT
1985 Mike Ruth, Boston College, NG
1986 Jason Buck, BYU, DT
1987 Chad Hennings, Air Force, DT
1988 Tracy Rocker, Auburn, DT
1989 Moe Elewonibi, BYU, G
1990 Russell Maryland, Miami (Fla.), DT
1991 Steve Emtman, Washington, DT
1992 Will Shields, Nebraska, G
1993 Rob Waldrop, Arizona, NG
1994 Zach Wiegert, Nebraska, OT
1995 Jonathan Ogden, UCLA, OT
1996 Orlando Pace, Ohio State, OT
1997 Aaron Taylor, Nebraska, OT
1998 Kris Farris, UCLA, OT
1999 Chris Samuels, Alabama, OT

Lombardi Award

(Top lineman/Rotary Club of Houston)

Year	Player, school, pos.
1970	Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State, MG
1971	Walt Patulski, Notre Dame, DE
1972	Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG
1973	John Hicks, Ohio State, OT
1974	Randy White, Maryland, DT
1975	Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT
1976	Wilson Whitley, Houston, DT
1977	Ross Browner, Notre Dame, DE
1978	Bruce Clark, Penn State, DT
1979	Brad Budde, USC, G
1980	Hugh Green, Pitt, DE
1981	Kenneth Sims, Texas, DT
1982	Dave Rimington, Nebraksa, C
1983	Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska, G
1984	Tony Degrate, Texas, DT
1985	Tony Casillas, Oklahoma, NG
1986	Cornelius Bennett, Alabama, LB
1987	Chris Spielman, Ohio State, LB
1988	Tracy Rocker, Auburn, DT
1989	Percy Snow, Michigan State, LB
1990	Chris Zorich, Notre Dame, DT
1991	Steve Emtman, Washington, DT
1992	Marvin Jones, Florida State, LB
1993	Aaron Taylor, Notre Dame, OT
1994	Warren Sapp, Miami (Fla.), DT
1995	Orlando Pace, Ohio State, OT
1996	Orlando Pace, Ohio State, OT
1997	Grant Wistrom, Nebraska, DE
1998	Dat Nguyen, Texas A&M, LB
1999	Corey Moore, Virginia Tech, DE

Davey O'Brien Award

(Top quarterback/Davey O'Brien Educational and Charitable Trust of Fort Worth, Texas)

Year	Player, school
1981	Jim McMahon, BYU
1982	Todd Blackledge, Penn State
1983	Steve Young, BYU
1984	Doug Flutie, Boston College
1985	Chuck Long, Iowa
1986	Vinny Testaverde, Miami (Fla.)
1987	Don McPherson, Syracuse
1988	Troy Aikman, UCLA
1989	Andre Ware, Houston
1990	Ty Detmer, BYU
1991	Ty Detmer, BYU
1992	Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.)
1993	Charlie Ward, Florida State
1994	Kerry Collins, Penn State
1995	Danny Wuerffel, Florida
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida
1997	Peyton Manning, Tennessee
1998	Michael Bishop, Kansas State
1999	Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech

Butkus Award

(Top linebacker/Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando, Fla.)

Year	Player, school
1985	Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma
1986	Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma
1987	Paul McGowan, Florida State
1988	Derrick Thomas, Alabama
1989	Percy Snow, Michigan State
1990	Alfred Williams, Colorado
1991	Erick Anderson, Michigan
1992	Marvin Jones, Florida State
1993	Trev Alberts, Nebraska
1994	Dana Howard, Illinois
1995	Kevin Hardy, Illinois
1996	Matt Russell, Colorado
1997	Andy Katzenmoyer, Ohio State
1998	Chris Claiborne, USC
1999	LaVar Arrington, Penn State

Jim Thorpe Award

(Top defensive back/Jim Thorpe Athletic Club of Oklahoma City)

Year	Player, school
1986	Thomas Everett, Baylor
1987	Bennie Blades, Miami (Fla.)
	Rickey Dixon, Oklahoma
1988	Deion Sanders, Florida State
1989	Mark Carrier, USC
1990	Darryll Lewis, Arizona
1991	Terrell Buckley, Florida State
1992	Deon Figures, Colorado
1993	Antonio Langham, Alabama
1994	Chris Hudson, Colorado
1995	Greg Myers, Colorado State
1996	Lawrence Wright, Florida
1997	Charles Woodson, Michigan
1998	Antoine Winfield, Ohio State
1999	Tyrone Carter, Minnesota

Doak Walker Award

(Top junior or senior running back/GTE SMU Athletic Forum of Dallas)

Year	Player, school
1990	Greg Lewis, Washington
1991	Trevor Cobb, Rice
1992	Garrison Hearst, Georgia
1993	Byron Morris, Texas Tech
1994	Rashaan Salaam, Colorado
1995	Eddie George, Ohio State
1996	Byron Hanspard, Texas Tech
1997	Ricky Williams, Texas
1998	Ricky Williams, Texas
1999	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin

Biletnikoff Award

(Top receiver/Tallahassee Quarterback Club of Tallahassee, Fla.)

Year	Player, school
1994	Bobby Engram, Penn State
1995	Terry Glenn, Ohio State
1996	Marcus Harris, Wyoming
1997	Randy Moss, Marshall
1998	Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech
1999	Troy Walters, Stanford

Groza Award

(Top kicker/Palm Beach County Sports Authority)

Year	Player, school
1992	Joe Allison, Memphis
1993	Judd Davis, Florida
1994	Steve McLaughlin, Arizona
1995	Michael Reeder, TCU
1996	Marc Primanti, North Carolina State
1997	Martin Gramatica, Kansas State
1998	Sebastian Janikowski, Florida State
1999	Sebastian Janikowski, Florida State

Johnny Unitas

(Top senior quarterback/Kentucky chapter of National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame)

Year	Player, school
1987	Don McPherson, Syracuse
1988	Rodney Peete, USC
1989	Tony Rice, Notre Dame
1990	Craig Erickson, Miami (Fla.)
1991	Casey Weldon, Florida State
1992	Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.)
1993	Charlie Ward, Florida State
1994	Jay Barker, Alabama
1995	Tommy Frazier, Nebraska
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida
1997	Peyton Manning, Tennessee
1998	Cade McNown, UCLA
1999	Chris Redman, Louisville

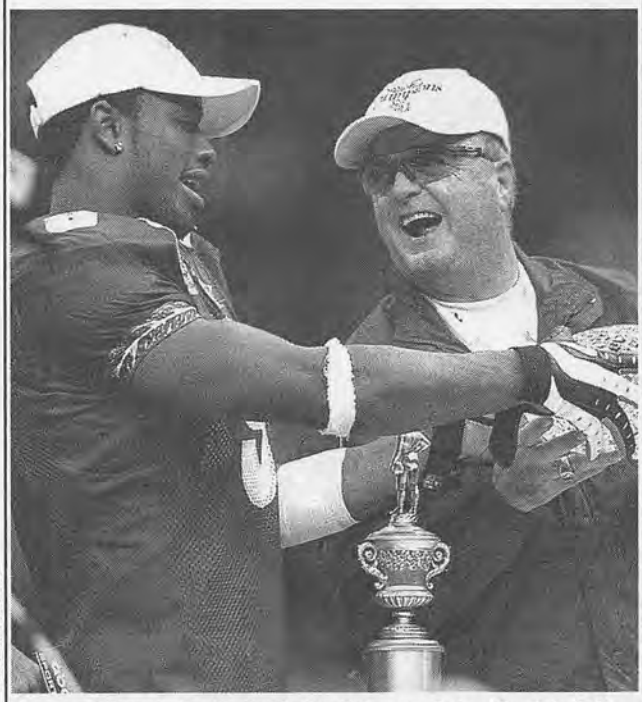
Bronko Nagurski Award

(Top defensive player/Football Writers Association of America)

Year	Player, school
1993	Rob Waldrop, Arizona, DL
1994	Warren Sapp, Miami (Fla.), DT
1995	Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern, LB
1996	Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern, LB
1997	Charles Woodson, Michigan, CB
1998	Champ Bailey, Georgia, CB
1999	Corey Moore, Virginia Tech, DE

National Champions

Year AP	Coaches	TSN
1936 Minnesota	-	-
1937 Pittsburgh	-	-
1938 Texas Christian	-	-
1939 Texas A & M	-	-
1940 Minnesota	-	-
1941 Minnesota	-	-
1942 Ohio State	-	-
1943 Notre Dame	-	-
1944 Army	-	-
1945 Army	-	-
1946 Notre Dame	-	-
1947 Notre Dame	-	-
1948 Michigan	-	-
1949 Notre Dame	-	-
1950 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	-
1951 Tennessee	Tennessee	-
1952 Michigan State	Michigan State	-
1953 Maryland	Maryland	-
1954 Ohio State	UCLA	-
1955 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	-
1956 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	-
1957 Auburn	Ohio State	-
1958 Louisiana State	Louisiana State	-



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Champs: ***Though he didn't win the Heisman, Peter Warrick (left) helped Bobby Bowden lead Florida State to the national title.***

Year AP	Coaches	TSN
1959 Syracuse	Syracuse	-
1960 Minnesota	Minnesota	-
1961 Alabama	Alabama	-
1962 USC	USC	-
1963 Texas	Texas	-
1964 Alabama	Alabama	-
1965 Alabama	Michigan State	-
1966 Notre Dame	Notre Dame	-
1967 USC	USC	-
1968 Ohio State	Ohio State	-
1969 Texas	Texas	-
1970 Nebraska	Texas	-
1971 Nebraska	Nebraska	-
1972 USC	USC	-
1973 Notre Dame	Alabama	-
1974 Oklahoma	USC	-
1975 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Arizona St
1976 Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
1977 Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1978 Alabama	USC	USC
1979 Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
1980 Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
1981 Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
1982 Penn State	Penn State	Penn State
1983 Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)
1984 BYU	BYU	Florida
1985 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
1986 Penn State	Penn State	Penn State
1987 Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)
1988 Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1989 Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)
1990 Colorado	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech
1991 Miami (Fla.)	Washington	Washington
1992 Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
1993 Florida State	Florida State	Florida State
1994 Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
1995 Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
1996 Florida	Florida	Florida
1997 Michigan	Nebraska	Michigan
1998 Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
1999 Florida State	Florida State	Florida State

NOTE: The coaches' poll switched its affiliation from United Press International to ESPN/USA Today in 1991.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1999 Standings

ACC

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Florida State	8-0	310	123	12-0	458	203
2. Georgia Tech	5-3	307	261	8-4	461	361
Virginia	5-3	222	210	7-5	345	365
Clemson	5-3	263	171	6-6	322	253
5. Wake Forest	3-5	145	178	7-5	266	209
NC State	3-5	167	250	6-6	244	302
Duke	3-5	182	290	3-8	217	363
8. Maryland	2-6	202	250	5-6	292	260
North Carolina	2-6	129	194	3-8	186	272

Big Ten

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Wisconsin	7-1	281	108	10-2	409	154
2. Michigan	6-2	245	175	10-2	361	247
Michigan St.	6-2	240	171	10-2	378	245
4. Penn State	5-3	235	163	10-3	417	234
Minnesota	5-3	225	158	8-4	368	196
6. Illinois	4-4	205	205	8-4	388	275
Purdue	4-4	226	225	7-5	384	305
8. Ohio State	3-5	157	208	6-6	285	287
Indiana	3-5	205	291	4-7	291	386
10. Northwestern	1-7	106	254	3-8	141	301
11. Iowa	0-8	121	288	1-10	162	347

Big 12 NORTH

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Nebraska	8-1	304	130	12-1	442	171
2. Kansas State	7-1	313	137	11-1	457	164
3. Colorado	5-3	242	176	7-5	405	311
4. Kansas	3-5	170	242	5-7	294	354
5. Missouri	1-7	118	292	4-7	224	371
Iowa State	1-7	173	255	4-7	247	272

SOUTH

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Texas	6-3	299	194	9-5	450	295
2. Texas A&M	5-3	196	172	8-4	318	232
Oklahoma	5-3	284	147	7-5	430	229
Texas Tech	5-3	188	213	6- 5	253	282
5. Oklahoma State	3-5	186	229	5-6	267	274
6. Baylor	0-8	61	347	1-10	137	414

Big East

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Virginia Tech	7-0	315	88	11-1	484	162
2. Miami	6-1	257	107	9-4	432	220
3. Boston College	4-3	161	156	8-4	297	308
4. Syracuse	3-4	138	189	7-5	300	256
West Virginia	3-4	198	168	4-7	292	289
6. Pittsburgh	2-5	167	198	5-6	281	278
Temple	2-5	138	261	2-9	153	366
8. Rutgers	1-6	110	317	1-10	155	427

Big West

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Boise State	5-1	248	111	10-3	430	277
2. Idaho	4-2	159	157	7-4	304	283
3. New Mexico St.	3-2	120	97	6-5	311	274
4. Utah State	3-3	127	134	4-7	234	301
5. Arkansas St.	2-3	106	151	4-7	246	332
6. Nevada	2-4	177	219	3-8	283	418
7. North Texas	1-5	81	149	2-9	118	291

Conference USA

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Southern Miss	6-0	189	88	9-3	333	189
2. East Carolina	4-2	191	133	9-3	333	225
Louisville	4-2	196	180	7-5	443	365
Memphis	4-2	158	96	5-6	232	182
UAB	4-2	140	129	5-6	248	279
6. Houston	3-3	131	152	7-4	254	211
7. Tulane	1-5	127	236	3-8	279	399
Army	1-5	125	197	3-8	225	317
9. Cincinnati	0-6	121	167	3-8	275	289

Mid-American EAST

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Marshall	9-0	332	121	13-0	463	137
2. Miami	6-2	238	166	7-4	335	264
3. Akron	5-3	231	200	7-4	315	314
Ohio	5-3	227	178	5-6	271	287
5. Bowling Green	3-5	213	237	5-6	296	312
6. Kent	2-6	159	257	2-9	213	376
7. Buffalo	0-8	96	333	0-11	130	426

WEST

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Western Michigan	6-3	267	211	7-5	373	342
2. Toledo	5-3	240	157	6-5	293	229
Northern Illinois	5-3	237	204	5-6	289	289
4. E. Michigan	4-4	216	211	4-7	239	338
5. Central Michigan	3-5	173	222	4-7	229	344
6. Ball State	0-8	117	249	0-11	157	361

Mountain West

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Utah	5-2	236	143	9-3	380	210
BYU	5-2	185	98	8-4	335	251
Colorado State	5-2	190	148	8-4	345	269
4. Wyoming	4-3	178	179	7-4	302	270
5. San Diego State	3-4	159	139	5-6	272	226
New Mexico	3-4	148	216	4-7	240	298
7. Air Force	2-5	149	170	6-5	264	218
8. UNLV	1-6	95	247	3-8	160	324

Pac-10

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Stanford	7-1	313	197	8-4	418	364
2. Oregon	6-2	247	199	9-3	410	284
Washington	6-2	231	188	7-5	331	302
4. Arizona State	5-3	227	192	6-6	285	311
5. Oregon State	4-4	208	177	7-5	347	277
6. USC	3-5	193	206	6-6	348	278
Arizona	3-5	229	252	6-6	339	364
California	3-5	131	164	4-7	180	254
9. UCLA	2-6	137	241	4-7	230	311
10. Washington St.	1-7	158	258	3-9	248	327

SEC EAST

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Florida	7-2	233	152	9-4	403	272
2. Tennessee	6-2	251	116	9-3	369	194
3. Georgia	5-3	198	204	8-4	336	310
4. Kentucky	4-4	198	218	6-6	328	343
5. Vanderbilt	2-6	129	211	5-6	252	256
6. South Carolina	0-8	63	216	0-11	87	278

WEST

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Alabama	8-1	244	177	10-3	378	265
2. Mississippi St.	6-2	156	121	10-2	255	156
3. Arkansas	4-4	198	196	8-4	353	214
Mississippi	4-4	235	176	8-4	323	228
5. Auburn	2-6	153	188	5-6	233	236
6. LSU	1-7	135	218	3-8	223	259

WAC

	League			Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Hawaii	5-2	214	161	9-4	371	349
TCU	5-2	245	123	8-4	362	213
Fresno State	5-2	226	141	8-5	413	282
4. Rice	4-3	198	161	5-6	237	261
5. SMU	3-3	107	113	4-6	193	235
6. UTEP	3-4	183	235	5-7	306	389
7. San Jose State	1-5	120	268	3-7	258	402
8. Tulsa	1-6	129	220	2-9	230	386

Independents

	Overall		
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.
1. Louisiana Tech	8-3	389	306
2. Louisiana-Monroe	5-6	186	322
3. Notre Dame	5-7	348	331
Navy	5-7	326	306
5. Central Florida	4-7	277	318
6. Middle Tennessee St.	3-8	272	379
7. Louisiana-Lafayette	2-9	203	415

Final 1999 polls

AP	USA Today/ESPN	TSN
1. Florida State	1. Florida State	1. Florida State
2. Virginia Tech	2. Nebraska	2. Virginia Tech
3. Nebraska	3. Virginia Tech	3. Nebraska
4. Wisconsin	4. Wisconsin	4. Wisconsin
5. Michigan	5. Michigan	5. Michigan
6. Kansas State	6. Kansas State	6. Kansas State
7. Michigan St.	7. Michigan State	7. Michigan St.
8. Alabama	8. Alabama	8. Alabama
9. Tennessee	9. Tennessee	9. Tennessee
10. Marshall	10. Marshall	10. Marshall
11. Penn State	11. Penn State	11. Florida
12. Florida	12. Mississippi St.	12. Mississippi St.
13. Mississippi St.	13. Southern Miss	13. Penn State
14. Southern Miss	14. Florida	14. Georgia
15. Miami (Fla.)	15. Miami (Fla.)	15. Southern Miss
16. Georgia	16. Georgia	16. Miami (Fla.)
17. Arkansas	17. Minnesota	17. Mississippi
18. Minnesota	18. Oregon	18. Arkansas
19. Oregon	19. Arkansas	19. Texas
20. Georgia Tech	20. Texas A&M	20. Texas A&M
21. Texas	21. Georgia Tech	21. Georgia Tech
22. Mississippi	22. Mississippi	22. Oregon
23. Texas A&M	23. Texas	23. Minnesota
24. Illinois	24. Stanford	24. Purdue
25. Purdue	25. Illinois	25. Illinois

1999 Bowl Results

Bowl	Outcome
Las Vegas	Utah 17, Fresno State 16
Mobile Alabama	TCU 28, East Carolina 14
Aloha	Wake Forest 23, Arizona State 3
Oahu	Hawaii 23, Oregon State 17
Motor City	Marshall 21, BYU 3
Alamo	Penn State 24, Texas A&M 0
Music City	Syracuse 20, Kentucky 13
Holiday	Kansas State 24, Washington 20
Humanitarian	Boise State 34, Louisville 31
Micronpc.com	Illinois 63, Virginia 21
Peach	Mississippi State 17, Clemson 7
Insight.com	Colorado 62, Boston College 28
Sun	Oregon 24, Minnesota 20
Liberty	Southern Miss 23, Colorado State 17
Independence	Mississippi 27, Oklahoma 25
Cotton	Arkansas 27, Texas 6
Outback	Georgia 28, Purdue 25 OT
Gator	Miami (Fla.) 28, Georgia Tech 13
Florida Citrus	Michigan State 37, Florida 34
Rose	Wisconsin 17, Stanford 9
Orange	Michigan 35, Alabama 34 OT
Fiesta	Nebraska 31, Tennessee 21
Sugar	Florida State 46, Virginia Tech 29

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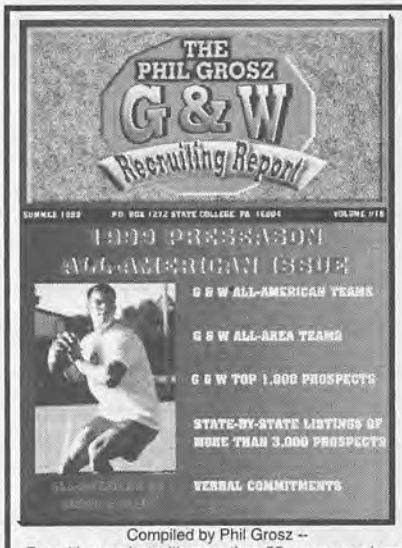

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Bowl Schedule

Bowl	Date	Site	TV	Matchup
Mobile Alabama Bowl	Wednesday, Dec. 20	Mobile, Ala.	ESPN2	Conference USA No. 2 vs. WAC East Champion
Las Vegas Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 21	Las Vegas	ESPN2	Mountain West No. 2 vs. open selection
Oahu Bowl	Sunday, Dec. 24	Honolulu	ESPN	PAC 10 No. 4 or 5 vs. ACC or Big East (tentative)
Aloha Bowl	Monday, Dec. 25	Honolulu	ABC	PAC 10 No. 4 or 5 vs. ACC or Big East (tentative)
Galleryfurniture.com Bowl	Wednesday, Dec. 27	Houston	ESPN2	Conference USA No. 3 vs. Big 12
Motor City Bowl	Wednesday, Dec. 27	Pontiac, Mich.	ESPN	MAC champion vs. at-large team
MicronPC.com Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 28	Miami	TBS	Big 10 No. 6 vs. ACC No. 4
Insight.com Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 28	Phoenix, Ariz.	ESPN	Big East No. 3 or Notre Dame vs. Big 12 No. 5
Humanitarian Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 28	Boise, Idaho	ESPN2	Big West Champion vs. WAC opponent
Music City Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 28	Nashville, Tenn.	ESPN	SEC No. 5 vs. Big East No. 4
Alamo Bowl	Dec. 28 or 30	San Antonio	ESPN	Big 10 No. 4 vs. Big 12 No. 4
Holiday Bowl	Friday, Dec. 29	San Diego	ESPN	PAC 10 No. 2 vs. Big 10 No. 3
Liberty Bowl	Friday, Dec. 29	Memphis	ESPN	Conference USA Champion vs. Midwest No. 1
Peach Bowl	Fri., Dec. 29 or Sat., Dec. 30	Atlanta	ESPN	ACC No. 3 vs. Southeastern No. 5
Sun Bowl	Friday, Dec. 29	El Paso, Texas	CBS	PAC 10 No. 3 vs. Big 10 No. 5
Silicon Valley Football Classic	Saturday, Dec. 31	San Jose, Calif.	Fox Sports Net	WAC vs. at-large
Independence Bowl	Sunday, Dec. 31	Shreveport, La.	ESPN	Big 12 No. 4 or 6 vs. Southeastern No. 7
Outback Bowl	Monday, Jan. 1	Tampa	ESPN	Southeastern No. 3 vs. Big 10 No. 3
Cotton Bowl	Monday, Jan. 1	Dallas	FOX	Big 12 No. 2 vs. Southeastern No. 3
Gator Bowl	Monday, Jan. 1	Jacksonville, Fla.	NBC	Acc No. 2 vs. Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame
Citrus Bowl	Monday, Jan. 1	Orlando	ABC	Big 10 No. 2 vs. Southeastern No. 2
Rose Bowl	Monday, Jan. 1	Pasadena, Calif.	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Fiesta Bowl	Monday, Jan. 1	Tempe, Ariz.	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Sugar Bowl	Tuesday, Jan. 2	New Orleans	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Orange Bowl	Wednesday, Jan. 3	Miami	ABC	Bowl Championship Series No. 1 vs. No. 2

Coaching Changes Division I-A

School	Former coach	New coach	New coach's former position
Army	Bob Sutton	Todd Berry	Illinois State head coach
Central Michigan	Dick Flynn	Mike DeBord	Michigan offensive coordinator
Eastern Michigan	Rick Rasnick	Jeff Woodruff	Arizona assistant
Houston	Kim Helton	Dana Dimel	Wyoming head coach
LSU	Gerry DiNardo	Nick Saban	Michigan State head coach
Michigan State	Nick Saban	Bobby Williams	Michigan State assistant
Nevada	Jeff Tisdel	Christopher Tormey	Idaho head coach
North Carolina St.	Mike O'Cain	Chuck Amato	Florida State offensive coordinator
Texas Tech	Spike Dykes	Mike Leach	Oklahoma offensive coordinator
Tulsa	Dave Rader	Keith Burns	Arkansas defensive coordinator
Utah State	Dave Arslanian	Mick Dennehy	Montana head coach
Wyoming	Dana Dimel	Vic Koenning	Wyoming assistant

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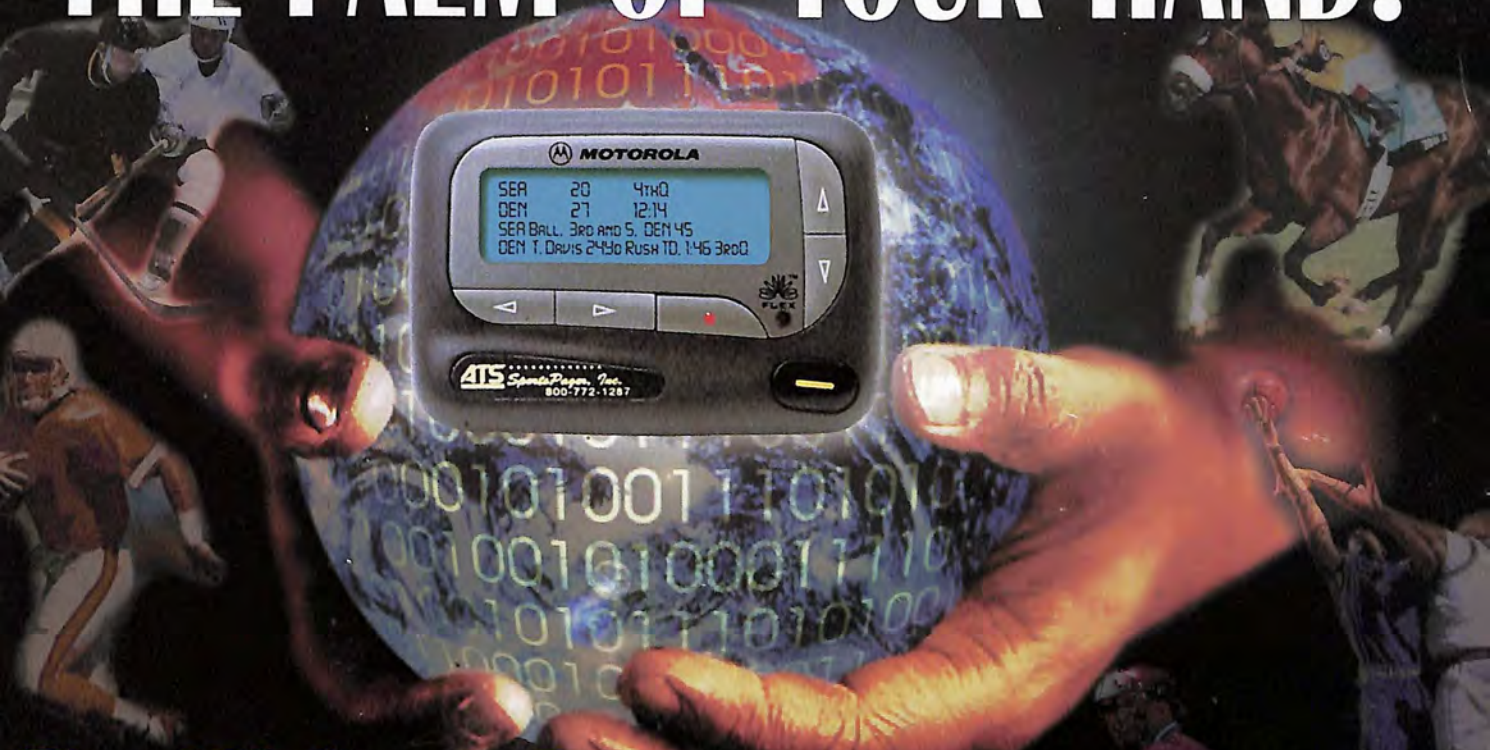

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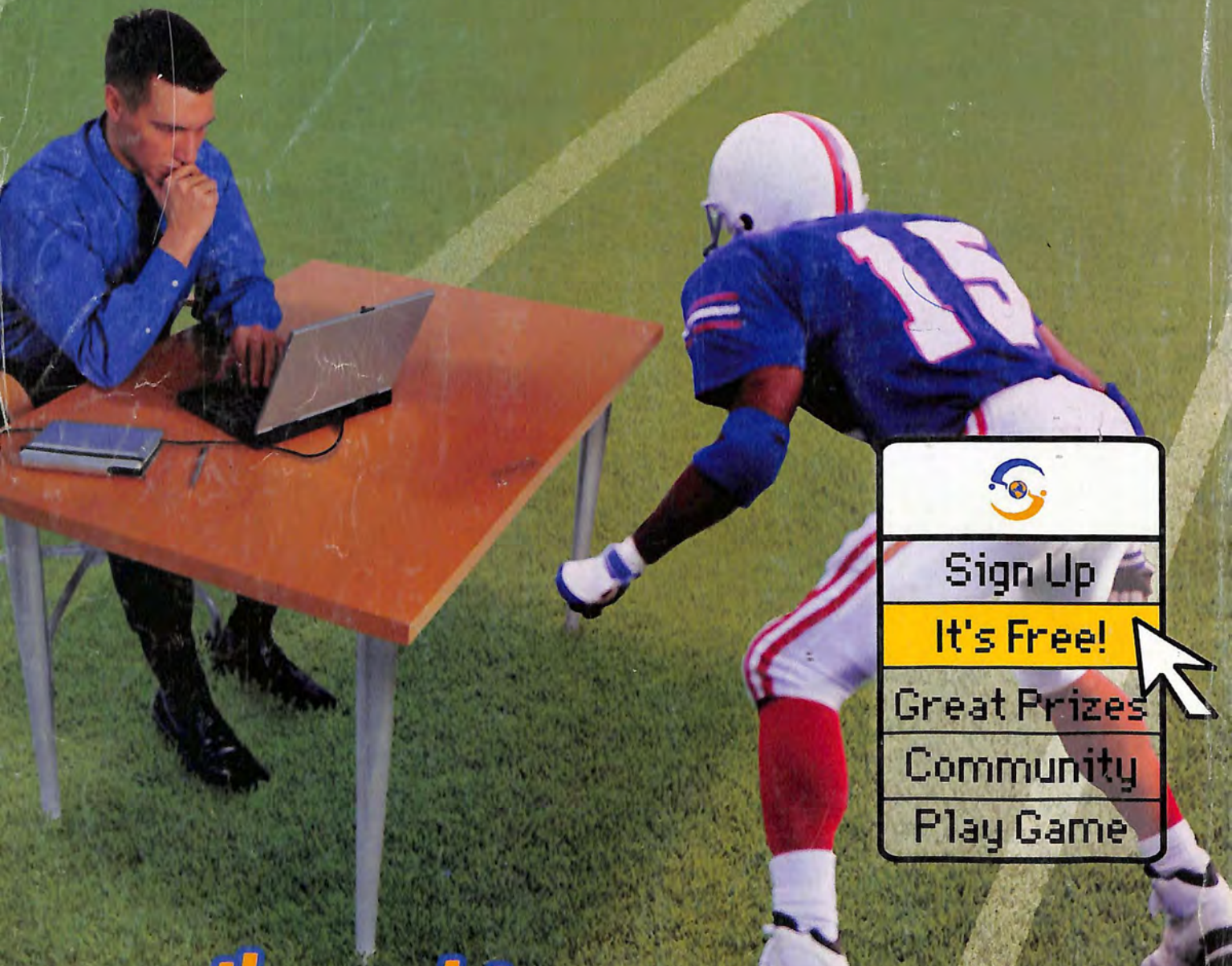

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